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The HazWaste Quarterly

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Providing useful information to businesses licensed by the Ramsey County Environmental Health Section to generate hazardous waste.

Pollution Prevention - Reduced wastes, increased profits, no risk. What's the catch? There isn't one!

Originating in California in 1992, Pollution Prevention Week gained widespread popularity in 1995, when it was celebrated on a national level. What can pollution prevention do for your company?

What is pollution prevention?

P2. Waste minimization. Source reduction. Buzzwords abound, but what do they all mean?

It's common sense. Pollution prevention is preventing waste from being created in the first place. Pollution (or waste) is an inefficient use of your company's resources and costs your business money. Pollution prevention or P2 begins by looking at the materials you use and how you use them, then coming up with ways to eliminate waste and create a safer workplace.

What can P2 do for my business?

Think of the TRUE cost of waste:

- Lost material;
- Wasted labor and production capacity;
- Liability insurance; and
- Regulatory compliance costs.

Now, think of the benefits that P2 can bring:

- Reduced raw materials costs;
- Higher productivity;
- Reduced liability;
- Reduced regulatory costs;
- Reduced waste disposal costs; and
- A positive image with customers, employees and the public.

Pollution prevention is smart business. It's good for the environment and it's good for your bottom line!

What can I do in my workplace?

Good housekeeping pays off.

- Fix leaks promptly. Repair or replace malfunctioning equipment.

Prevent product losses.

- Running water costs money. Make sure hoses and sinks are shut off when not in use.

Manage your inventory tightly.

- Practice "first product in, first product out".
- Carefully consider bulk purchases to avoid unused product and costly disposal.

Get more out of what you use.

- Reuse or recycle solvents on-site to substitute for virgin products.

Invest in efficient equipment.

- Upgrade or automate continuous, long running processes.

Train your employees.

- Train operators in the latest, most efficient techniques.

Use less toxic products.

- Use products made from less toxic materials.
- Switch from chlorinated to plant or petroleum based solvents.

Buy products with less packaging.

- Talk with your vendors about your waste reduction goals. Request reusable or returnable packaging.

Celebrate Pollution Prevention Week
September 19 - September 23, 2011



Increase Your Bottom Line with Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance, at NO Cost

Tried recycling in the past but couldn't make it happen? Want to join the millions of Americans that pledge to recycle more, at home, at work and on the go, next America Recycles Day?

Get ready to celebrate your renewed commitment with the help of Minnesota Waste Wise (MWW). Currently under contract with Ramsey County, MWW can provide your business with the technical expertise needed to start or enhance your recycling program and meet your waste reduction goals. Let MWW lend your business a hand and make it work. Assistance provided through site visits, phone calls or emails - whatever works for you - all at no charge! Don't be left out - this offer is available for a limited time only. For more information, contact Karen Reilly at 651.266.1186.

November 15, 2011 - America Recycles Day!

America Recycles Day (ARD) is a nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging all Americans to recycle and buy recycled products. Through ARD, Keep America Beautiful, Inc. and the National Recycling Coalition, support local communities and raise awareness by educating citizens about the benefits of recycling. As Ellen Tealander, Executive Director of the Recycling Association of Minnesota states, "Recycling is important for the economy, the environment, and energy conservation. The recycling industry creates jobs for Minnesotans, and is a multimillion dollar industry for the state."

Join The Conversation - Follow Green Ramsey



You can "Go Green" on Facebook and Twitter with Environmental Health Section's new Green Ramsey pages. Green Ramsey offers great information about ways residents and businesses alike can be green. We want to improve, protect and promote the health, environment and well-being of people in our community. Learn about topics such as recycling, environmental toxins, composting, energy conservation, sustainability and more. The goal is to share information through a new medium while also engaging in conversations with followers. Do YOU want to learn more ways to go green and protect the planet? Follow Green Ramsey at www.facebook.com/greenramsey and <http://twitter.com/GreenRamsey>.

Updates for Self-Audit Report Generators

The self-audit program, in its 11th year, has been a significant change in regulatory procedure.

By completing the self-audit report, generators are guided through the proper management of their hazardous wastes and reminded of the procedures to be followed that will ensure compliance.

In August 2011, 21 Self-Audit generators underwent routine hazardous waste inspections. Here's what we found.

- Waste pharmaceuticals were being improperly managed with infectious waste. Waste pharmaceuticals must either be evaluated

to determine if they are hazardous, or managed as a hazardous waste. Look on your self-audit report for more information on evaluating and managing waste pharmaceuticals.

- At some dental clinics, chair-side traps and filters, used and unused amalgam capsules contaminated with mercury were not being managed properly. Businesses must either recycle these wastes or manage them as a hazardous waste. A fact sheet on *Managing Hazardous Waste from Dental Clinics* will be included in the dental self-audit report.

When you receive your self-audit report, be sure that you read and understand each section. Call Laura Piotrowski at 651.266.1185 with any questions.

Complete and return your report by the November 15th deadline.

Failure to do so is a violation of the Ramsey County Hazardous Waste Ordinance and may result in referral to the County Attorney's office for possible legal action. Additionally, your company could be removed from the self-audit program and reinstated into the hazardous waste regulatory program, resulting in higher license fees and regular hazardous waste inspections.



P2 Tip - Information & Insight: Waste Reduction - Worth a Second, Serious Look

Businesses that generate hazardous waste are familiar with the requirements for proper waste management, understanding that the rules were intended to protect human health and the environment. When was the last time you took a close look at your waste generating operations? Are you missing opportunities to reduce the volume or the toxicity of your waste by making some simple changes? It might be time for you to take it one step further, looking closely at your operation, focusing on waste reduction opportunities.

Product choices have significant impact

In 2008, a St. Paul auto body shop made the change from solvent-based paints to water-based paints, a first in Minnesota. They purchased a computer paint mixing program and fitted the metal cups on their spray guns with removable plastic liners. They are now able to finish 11% more cars, using 33% less energy, reducing hazardous waste by 38%, and saving about \$17,000 annually.

A large-volume St. Paul lithography printer, through a process of elimination, substitution and sound environmental practices, was able to reduce their manifested shipments of hazardous waste from small quantity generator volumes to zero. They tested and evaluated the performance of non-hazardous, high flash point solvents as a replacement for their ignitable solvents. Using a team approach and focusing on the company's environmental goals helped people readily accept the change.

By simply choosing different products, businesses can keep on making quality products without exposing workers to the hazards of flammable or toxic solvents.

Routine maintenance pays off

Businesses that focus on the product choices to reduce hazardous waste should also look at other aspects of their operations. Often overlooked is assuring your equipment is operating properly.

In 2011, a Highland Park dry cleaner reduced their solvent usage by 90%. They hired a plumber to locate and repair leaks in their equipment and piping. The repairs were very cost-effective, providing huge savings going forward. At \$40 per gallon, the company's reduced solvent use is saving \$9,600 annually, well worth the effort and short term expense. Perhaps most importantly, they lessened their employees exposure to the solvent.

Resources

Long time generators of hazardous waste are familiar with purchase and disposal costs. Waste reduction through product substitution and improved equipment efficiency should not be overlooked. For help, contact the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) at 612.624.1300 or www.mntap.umn.edu.

Questions, Questions (and some answers!)

Recently hired as a Environmental Health and Safety Administrator, I decided to "get a handle" on our hazardous materials. Going through the plant, we found over 50 cans of old paint. How can we get rid of it?

Surplus paint is a common problem for many businesses. Before you consider disposal options, try and find a use for it. Talk to other departments in your organization, perhaps they can use it. If not, maybe another business or organization would be interested in your unused paints.

Reuse Options

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) hosts the Materials Exchange Program on their website. It's a free service that links organizations that have reusable (but unwanted) goods with those who can use them. It prevents usable materials from becoming waste and saves you money. Visit www.mntap.umn.edu/assistance/matex.htm for more information.

Recycling Options

If reuse isn't an option and your paint is latex, consider using Amazon Environmental. Located in Fridley, MN, Amazon

is the only metro area company that we know of that accepts latex paint for reuse or recycling. Call 763.572.0800 for more information.

Disposal Options

If your company is a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG), you can transport it yourself, in a company vehicle, to a licensed collection site. For Small and Large Quantity Generators, you need to hire a licensed company to transport it. A list of these companies is on our website at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/hw/index.htm. Click on the link to the Hazardous Waste Vendor list under the Business section.

Future Considerations

Finally, find ways to prevent having surplus materials in the future. This will help you avoid unnecessary purchasing and disposal expenses.





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