Pollution Prevention

An Economic Approach To Protect the Environment

Why the City Encourages Pollution Prevention

The City of Loveland’s Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is the recipient of a full spectrum of wastes.

The wastes, discharged from commercial establishments, small industrial users, and domestic sources consist of heavy metals (such as lead, mercury), volatile organics (benzene, toluene), and other contaminants (grease, oils, pesticides).

These wastes have the potential to interfere with the WWTP operations or pass through the plant into the Big Thompson River.

The City of Loveland’s Industrial Pretreatment Program can help Loveland businesses learn how to reduce waste at the source.

The City believes a cooperative approach to pollution prevention would be beneficial to businesses and the community.

Not only can pollution prevention help a business achieve cost savings, increase operational efficiencies, and improve the quality of service and products, but it can also improve water quality in the Big Thompson River.

What is Pollution Prevention?

Pollution prevention utilizes source reduction to reduce or eliminate pollutants from the waste stream.

Source reduction is any practice, technique, or effort to reduce — at the source — the quantity of waste generated and toxic chemicals used or released.

Some Examples of Source Reduction

Auto Repair Shops - recycle antifreeze, prolong the life of solvent in parts washer, use refillable pump spray bottles, reduce grease on clothing and rags.

Auto Body Shops - use low emission solvents and paints, use high transfer efficiency equipment, recycle solvent.

Drycleaners - reuse hangers and garment bags, upgrade to azeotropic distillation.

Hotels - install bulk soap and shampoo dispensers, use water saving devices.

Printers - reduce VOC emissions by using an alcohol-free fountain solution, reduce petroleum-based ink on laundered shop towels, switch to soy-based inks.

Photo Processors - regenerate bleaches and fixers, recycle scrap film and paper.

Restaurants - reduce water usage, recycle cooking grease, clean grease traps often.
Benefits of Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention produces numerous benefits. Benefits can occur in the areas of:

- **Economics** - Depending on the type of business, costs savings can include reduced:
  - Production costs
  - Raw-material use
  - Disposal costs
  - Transportation costs
  - Treatment costs
  - Monitoring costs

- **Public Image** - People are concerned about the environment and toxic chemicals. Let them know you participate in reducing pollution.

- **Liability** - Reduced risks of spills and accidents on site and off site.

- **Regulations** - Reduced regulatory requirements may result from pollution prevention.

- **Health** - Reduced worker exposure to toxic chemicals and risks to human health and safety.

- **Environment** - Reduced irreversible environmental problems and reduce depletion of natural resources.

**Barriers may be encountered but they can be overcome through education, partnerships, and a commitment to pollution prevention.**

Top 12 Waste Reduction Tips

1. Target waste that can be eliminated at the source.

2. Identify procedures that reduce wastes or production changes that improve efficiency.

3. Identify waste materials that can be:  
   - REDUCED
   - REUSED
   - RECYCLED

4. Purchase only what you need to avoid spoilage or material becoming unuseable.

5. Buy in bulk, use refillable spray bottles instead of aerosols.

6. Use water-based substitutes instead of solvents or petroleum based compounds.

7. Investigate the use of returnable or recyclable containers and pallets.

8. Investigate improved methods for handling material and maintaining equipment.

9. Determine if outdated stock can be returned to the supplier for regeneration or disposal.

10. Don’t accept product samples if there is a chance the samples will become waste.

11. Cover all containers to reduce evaporative losses.

12. Never allow leaks to persist.

Additional Information

To obtain more information, contact your trade association or:  
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Industrial Pretreatment Program  
200 North Wilson Avenue  
Loveland, Colorado 80537  
(970)-962-3719