

Water Pollution? It's Just Bad Business.

No matter where you work, your business is likely having a negative impact on some level on the health of our watershed. Industrial toxins can come from a wide range of sources: vehicles, machinery, cleaning products, garbage, and toxic waste products. The chemicals and toxins released from industrial waste flow into our waterways and also end up in our drinking water. This takes a significant toll on public health, the vitality of habitat for animals, and interferes with recreational opportunities in water bodies that have been contaminated. To combat this problem many businesses choose to implement a Pollution Prevention Plan. The intent of this Plan is to undertake activities that reduce or eliminate chemical contaminants directly at the source. These activities include the efficient use of raw materials, water, and energy, the replacement of harsh chemicals with less toxic substances, and the elimination of toxins from production processes. A Pollution Prevention Plan can help a company reduce illicit discharges to the watershed while lowering operational costs.



Reduce Your Impact While On The Clock!

For Owners and Managers

1. Evaluate your most frequently used chemicals and toxins and develop a plan to reduce their use.
2. Incorporate environmental considerations into the design of products, buildings, and manufacturing systems to improve the efficiency of resources.
3. Think of alternative methods in daily operations and maintenance activities to help eliminate wasteful management practices that increase costs and cause pollution.
4. Re-engineering or re-designing a facility or operation allows it to take advantage of equipment that is cleaner, newer and more efficient.
5. Buying the correct amount of raw materials will decrease the amount of excess materials that are discarded.
6. One company's waste may be another company's gain. Finding alternative markets for your business's waste will generate revenue and most importantly reduce pollution of the watershed.
7. Develop a good leak and spill prevention program.

For Employees and Staff

1. Stay informed about the types of pollution your company generates and find out how to get involved in making your company more environmentally friendly.
2. Follow all instructions pertaining to the storage, use and disposal of toxic materials.
3. Keep facilities clean and sweep up debris.
4. Check dumpsters for leaks and keep them away from storm drains.
5. Ensure that no materials are flowing from your business into nearby storm drains or streams.
6. Use chemicals sparingly and never use more than needed.
7. Never use or store hazardous materials near storm drains or water.
8. Recycling paper and glass saves money and reduces waste.
9. Control runoff from storage and other areas where toxins are present.
10. When possible, cover pollutants stored outdoors to limit their contact with rain.
11. Reducing the amount of water used in cleaning or manufacturing can reduce the amount of wastewater produced.