UTAH DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DRINKING WATER

BONA VISTA Quality On Tap! WATER DISTRICT

Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet

Pollution Prevention (P2) uses source reduction techniques and practices to reduce or eliminate the amount of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants entering any waste stream or being released into the environment. In short, P2 means not creating waste in the first place while reducing risks to public health, welfare, and the environment.

Pollution Prevention is Good Business

While most pollution control strategies cost money, P2 has saved many businesses thousands of dollars in treatment and disposal costs. Other economic benefits include:

- Reduced operating costs.
- Savings from reduced need for pollution control equipment.
- Elimination of waste transportation, storage, disposal and liability costs.
- Reduced compliance costs from government regulations.
- Improved public image.
- Stimulating reinvestment and enhancing competitiveness.
- Reducing risk of spills, accidents and emergencies.
- Increasing environmental protection.

P2 Techniques

Generating less waste is the best way businesses can practice pollution prevention. This can be achieved through:

- Inventory management: Tracking all raw materials and improving operations.
- Substitute non-hazardous materials for hazardous materials.
- Improving material receiving, storage, and handling practices.
- Modifying and redesigning equipment to enhance recovery and recycling.
- Improved operating efficiency of equipment.
- Establishing strict preventive maintenance programs.
- Segregating wastes for recovery.
- Separating hazardous & non-hazardous wastes to prevent cross-contamination.
- Eliminating sources of leaks and spills.
- Use of water soluble cleaning agents in place of organic solvents and degreasers.

Management Support

The support of company management is essential for developing a lasting and successful P2 program. This commitment should be passed on to employees, especially those working in areas that generate hazardous waste. Management approaches may include the following:

- Make P2 a part of the company policy, a process of continuous improvement.
- Target goals for reducing the volume and toxicity of waste streams.
- Implement recommendations identified through waste assessments.
- Reward employees who identify cost-effective P2 opportunities.
- Train employees in P2 hazardous material waste handling and emergency response procedures.

Good Housekeeping

Most successful P2 waste assessments identify sources of waste and calculate the true cost of waste generation and management. A little extra attention paid to minor sources of waste can result in major reductions. Improved housekeeping practices, system adjustments, process and product inspections, and the use of production unit control equipment and methods are often successful P2 practices. Others include:

- Inspect and repair equipment to reduce waste caused by equipment failure, leaks and spills.
- Contain leaks and spills by using drip trays and splashguards.
- Keep containers closed except when material is added or withdrawn.
- Utilize a "first-in first-out" inventory policy to avoid losses due to expirations.

Product Substitution

Some companies are so motivated by pollution prevention practices they change the products they produce in order to employ nonhazardous production processes. For example, they may change the design, specifications, or composition of an existing end product to reduce the need for toxic materials, which can help reduce pollution and associated costs.

Process Modification

Inefficient or outdated production processes that could be sources of hazardous waste generation can be upgraded or replaced by a more efficient process.

- Changes in the placement order of equipment.
- Equipment modification.
- Changes in operation settings and schedules.
- Process automation.

For More Information, Please Contact:

Division of Drinking Water, Source Protection Program - (801) 536-4200

Use only a moderate amount of cleaning products and do not pour solvents or other hou waste down the drains.

Garbage disposals should not be used because they tend to overload the system with solids. If you have one, you should severely limit its use.

Do not pour grease or cooking oil down the sink.

Do not put items down the drain that may clog the septic tank or other parts of the system. These items include cigarette butts, sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, disposable diapers, paper towels, eggshells, and coffee grounds.

Water Conservation

There are limits to the amount of wastewater a septic system can treat. If you overload the system, wastewater may backup into your home or surface over your drain-field. Problems caused by using too much water can occur periodically throughout the year or be seasonal. For example, the soil beneath your drain-field is wetter in the spring than it is in the summer and its capacity to percolate wastewater is somewhat diminished. If you wash all your laundry in one day, you may have a temporary problem caused by overloading the soil's capacity to percolate wastewater for that day. To reduce the risk of using too much water, try the following:

Use 1.6 gallons (or less) per flush toilets.

Fix leaking toilets and faucets immediately.

Use faucet aerators at sinks and flow reducing nozzles at showers.

Limit the length of your shower to 10 minutes or less.

Do not fill the bathtub with more than 6 inches of water.

Do not wash more than one or two loads of laundry per day.

Do not use the dishwasher until it is full.

Septic Tank Cleaning

It is recommended that the solids that collect in your septic tank be pumped out and disposed at an approved location every three to five years. If not removed, these solids will eventually be discharged from the septic tank into the drain-field and will clog the soil in the absorption trenches. If the absorption trenches are clogged, sewage will either back up into the house or surface over the drain-field. If this happens, pump the tank will not solve the problem and a new drain-field will probably need to be constructed on a different part of the lot.

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