

SOURCE REDUCTION

Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet

Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Pollution Prevention Unit

ADEM

(334) 394-4360

Contact the ADEM ombudsman at 1-800-533-2336 with specific regulatory questions.

POLLUTION PREVENTION MEANS

- Source reduction and other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw material, energy, water, or other resources; or
- Protection of natural resources by conservation.
- Embracing the waste reduction hierarchy of source reduction, reuse, recycling, and treating. Disposal or other release into the environment is employed as a last resort and should be conducted in an environmentally safe manner. Purchasing products with a recycled content completes the loop.

SOURCE REDUCTION MEANS

- Reducing the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions);
- Reducing the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

SOURCE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

- Input Material Substitution - Substitute a solvent with a water based cleaner.
- Improvements in:
 - ⇒ inventory control - First In First Out system, so chemicals don't expire and become a waste
 - ⇒ employee training - Train all employees in waste handling and pollution prevention methods
 - ⇒ spill control - Train so fewer spills, inspect containers for leaks or tears upon delivery, catch spilled material before it reaches the floor and becomes contaminated so it may be reused
 - ⇒ segregate waste streams - use grease trap to separate solids from wastewater prior to discharge to the POTW; separate your recyclable waste from non-recyclable
 - ⇒ efficient production - avoid the need to repackage products; dedicated machinery reduces cleanup, schedule to off-peak energy use and negotiate lower electric rate
 - ⇒ housekeeping - a neat and clean work area encourages careful handling and
 - ⇒ maintenance, or
- Product Changes - Reformulation or redesign of products
- Process or procedure modifications
- Equipment or technology modifications
- Increased efficiency in use of raw materials, energy, water or other resources
- Protection of natural resources by conservation.

SAVINGS

- An Alabama manufacturer of wooden furniture implemented a waste reduction plan and is saving \$28,000 annually, reduced VOC's by 12,000lbs/yr. and reduced wastes by 14,400lbs/yr.*