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# Solid Waste Pollution Prevention

## What is Solid Waste Pollution Prevention (P2)?

Solid wastes are unwanted materials, such as garbage, office paper, packaging, wood pallets etc. Solid waste does not include infectious or hazardous wastes.

## Inventory Control Opportunities

Establish a “just-in-time” ordering system. This means that only the amount needed is on hand at any given time. Establishing a centralized purchasing system is also key, because if there is only one purchasing system, then quantities are much easier to track.

Good housekeeping practices also help control inventory and reduce solid waste generation. Inspect materials before accepting a shipment to verify the shipment is correct. Conduct frequent inventory checks. Properly label containers. Have a good inventory system to better manage materials and reduce solid waste.

If you manage chemicals, order them in exact amounts needed and rotate chemical stock. Encourage your chemical suppliers to become responsible partners (for example, accepting outdated supplies), or switch to a vendor that is willing to be a responsible partner.

## Recycling Opportunities

Perform a “dumpster dive” or waste inventory. Identify outlets for recyclable wastes. Purchase products made from recycled materials. Select quantity and package types that minimize packing waste. Set up staffed control points to dispense materials/chemicals and collect wastes.

Explore other uses for off-spec material that would have otherwise been disposed. Change to reusable shipping containers or use rinsable/recyclable drums and recycle wooden pallets. Take advantage of waste exchanges like the Ohio Materials Exchange (OMEx) (at: [www.aor-omex.org/omex](http://www.aor-omex.org/omex)). OMEx maintains and distributes listings of materials

available and materials wanted from participating businesses.

## Other P2 Opportunities

These ideas can help reduce the amount of solid waste that is disposed of in landfills. When making copies, make them double-sided or use both sides of the paper for draft documents, cutting paper use in half. Use e-mail whenever possible. Issue newsletters and memos via e-mail rather than paper. Establish material use guidelines to help reduce excess waste.

Offer unwanted office supplies, furniture, or equipment to employees, charity services, etc., instead of taking these items to a landfill. Form a P2 or “green” team to identify waste reduction opportunities. Give employees input in the P2 process and provide rewards for any ideas that result in waste reduction.

## Benefits of Solid Waste P2

Economic benefits of inventory control include reducing disposal costs of unused materials, saving money on analytical tests to determine how unknown materials should be disposed and reducing money tied up in unused inventory. If materials are recycled or reused, then economic benefits include reduced disposal costs. Recycling facilities may pay a small amount for some recycled materials such as aluminum cans.

The environmental benefits of solid waste P2 include the generation of less waste through material substitution,

### What is Pollution Prevention?

Pollution prevention (P2) is the use of source reduction techniques to reduce risk to public health, safety, welfare and the environment and, as a second preference, the use of environmentally sound recycling to achieve these same goals. P2 addresses all types of waste and environmental releases to the air, water and land.



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source reduction, better equipment maintenance, and employee education. Internal scrap reduction and recycling programs also help to reduce waste.

## P2 Success Story

Plasticolors, Inc., a manufacturer of dispersions, additives, and colorants located in Ashtabula, Ohio, diverted 12,227 pounds per year of office waste from landfill disposal by sending paper and cardboard out for recycling.

## Attached List of P2 Suggestions

The attached list of P2 suggestions to help you reduce the amount of waste you generate. Contact your inspector at the appropriate District Office or Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at 800-329-7518 for more information.

### Resources

- An Organizational Guide to Pollution Prevention*, United States EPA (U.S. EPA), [www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/Organizational%20Guide%20to%20P2.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/Organizational%20Guide%20to%20P2.pdf).
- Inventory Control Checklist*, Pollution Prevention Institute, Kansas State University, [www.sbeap.org/ppi/publications/inventory\\_control\\_checklist\\_replace.pdf](http://www.sbeap.org/ppi/publications/inventory_control_checklist_replace.pdf).
- Ohio EPA, OCAPP Web Site, [www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/ocapp.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/ocapp.html)
- Ohio Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimization Planning Guidance Manual*, Ohio EPA, [www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/guide/p2pbgn.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/guide/p2pbgn.html) .
- P2 Good Housekeeping Techniques* fact sheet, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, [www.azdeq.gov/enviro/waste/p2/download/goodweb.pdf](http://www.azdeq.gov/enviro/waste/p2/download/goodweb.pdf) .
- Pollution Prevention Opportunities Checklist*, Division of Hazardous Waste Management, Ohio EPA, [www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/pdf/P2OppsGeneral.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/pdf/P2OppsGeneral.pdf) .
- Recycling of Paper and Cardboard Reduces Solid Waste from Chemical Plant*, [www.chemalliance.org/Handbook/plant/case\\_study.asp?CSID=493](http://www.chemalliance.org/Handbook/plant/case_study.asp?CSID=493).
- Small Business Environmental Compliance Self-Assessment Guide*, Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention, Ohio EPA, <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb/publications/selfgde.pdf> .
- Solid Waste Reduction Checklist*, Pollution Prevention Institute, Kansas State University, [www.sbeap.org/ppi/publications/solid\\_waste\\_reduction\\_P2\\_checklist.PDF](http://www.sbeap.org/ppi/publications/solid_waste_reduction_P2_checklist.PDF).
- U.S. EPA's Pollution Prevention Facility Guide*, [www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/P2Facguide.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/P2Facguide.pdf).