

## Pollution Prevention Pays

### Kimberly Nurseries, Twin Falls

Converted to processing wood waste for resale as mulch and soil amendment products instead of burning it, saving approximately \$15,000 a year.

### CH2M HILL, Boise

Created a password-protected Web site for posting and reviewing draft reports, saving the business up to \$10,000 in printing costs.

### Excalibur Auto Body Repair, Lewiston

Converted from a solvent-based system to a waterbased paint system, reducing the generation of hazardous waste by 360 pounds per year. Uses recycled solution in its paint gun wash system, reducing solvent waste by 1,920 pounds per year and disposal costs by approximately \$1,440 per year.

### Hewlett-Packard, Boise

Instituted a computer shutdown campaign for its more than 4,000 computers, reducing energy consumption by 1.5% annually in 2002 and 2003.

### Idaho State University, Pocatello

Implemented xeriscape landscaping techniques by using native plants and organic mulch, reducing water use by over 2.5 million gallons per year.

### INL Big Shop, Idaho Falls

Eliminated 11.2 metric tons of hazardous waste by using soap and warm water parts washers, saving \$9,300 per year in disposal costs. Replaced disposable paper cleaning wipes with reusable cloth towels, saving \$21,000 a year in purchasing costs.



## For More Information

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### Pollution Prevention Program

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### Idaho Falls Regional Office

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### Log on:

Idaho DEQ's Pollution Prevention Program  
[www.deq.idaho.gov/pollutionprevention](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/pollutionprevention)

Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center  
[www.pprc.org](http://www.pprc.org)

Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx)  
[www.p2rx.org](http://www.p2rx.org)

Idaho GEMStars Program  
[www.idabgemstars.org](http://www.idabgemstars.org)



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## For Business and Industry

# POLLUTION PREVENTION (P2) PAYS



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Environmental Quality  
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## What is Pollution Prevention?

Pollution prevention (P2) is any activity, including the use of materials, processes, or practices, that reduces or eliminates the creation of pollutants or waste at the source. Instead of trying to manage the wastes or pollutants through treatment or disposal methods, P2 aims to prevent the initial generation or reduce the toxicity of wastes and pollutants such as hazardous waste, air pollutants, solid waste, wastewater, etc.

Pollution prevention also includes any activity that reduces the toxicity of materials purchased or reduces the consumption of resources such as raw materials, water, energy, or fuel.

If generated waste cannot be eliminated or reduced, the next best option is to identify a way to reuse the waste or locate others who can use the waste in their processes.

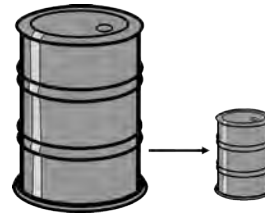
After trying to prevent, reduce, or reuse waste, the next option is recycling. Although recycling has environmental benefits and is encouraged, it should be considered only after source reduction and reuse efforts have been exhausted, since they provide the greatest environmental benefit.



## Why Pollution Prevention?

Environmental protection is just one of the many benefits pollution prevention can provide, including:

**Increased productivity.** P2 can improve productivity by increasing the efficient use of raw materials, water, energy, or fuel and eliminating inefficient processes that generate waste or pollutants. P2 can also include simple low-cost or no-cost improvements, such as scheduling routine maintenance, which can reduce the loss of raw materials through leaks and spills and increase product yield.



**Lower operating costs.** P2 activities can save money for a company over time. Money usually is saved in reduced material costs, improved operating efficiency, and reduced costs for waste handling and disposal.

**Safer conditions for workers.** By reducing or eliminating the use of toxics, a business can improve the safety of the work environment. The reduced likelihood of leaks, spills, and releases results in less exposure for workers, visitors, and contractors and reduced worker medical claims. Improving worker safety means achieving better labor relations and can lower insurance rates.

**Reduced future liability.** P2 can reduce a business' liability for environmental problems resulting from recycling, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

## P2 Techniques

- Eliminate unnecessary processes that generate waste.
- Segregate different waste streams to increase reuse and recycling opportunities.
- Inventory stock to minimize the amount of products purchased.
- Substitute a nontoxic or less-toxic material for a toxic material.
- Consider smaller or more fuel-efficient vehicles when making purchases.
- Minimize or eliminate activities that generate dust or smoke.
- Identify in-process recycling opportunities, such as recycling spent rinse water within the same process.
- Consider energy and water conservation when replacing machinery or updating lighting, heating or cooling systems, or appliances.

## Is P2 for You?

Any business, large or small, can prevent pollution. P2 can involve solutions that are simple or cost little to nothing, such as adjusting purchasing policies so only what is needed is purchased, installing energy-efficient lighting, printing of office paper on both sides, or turning down the temperature on the hot water heater.

## How DEQ Can Help

DEQ's P2 Program works with Idaho's businesses to prevent pollution and conserve resources. Contact DEQ's P2 Specialist (see back panel) for assistance on P2 issues related to air, waste, water, conservation, and sustainability.