



Community Partners for Clean Streams

Managing Business Wastes

One of the most impactful ways to protect water quality is to minimize waste and recycle. These actions protect the environment while reducing disposal costs.

Since each business is unique, opportunities to reduce consumption and waste will vary. Every reduction in waste that you can achieve supports protecting the environment. Substantial results from a commitment to waste reduction and recycling are often achieved over several years.

Small changes to reduce consumption of products and materials can greatly reduce your environmental impact. Using fewer products will reduce your businesses demand for the consumption or extraction of raw resources and create less waste to manage.

- Eliminate bottled water and single use plastics by providing reusable dishes and filtered water.
- Go paperless by utilizing electronic filing whenever possible.
- Try to buy only what you need and limit quantities to what will be used in a timely manner.
- Develop a policy against accepting unnecessary samples from product vendors.
- Compost food and landscaping waste.

PURCHASING POWER

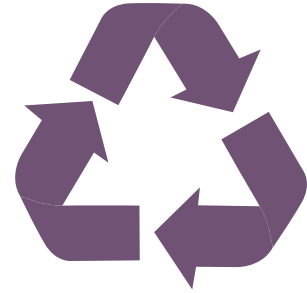
Strategic buying decisions can not only reduce our environmental impact and reduce costs, they also support sustainable businesses, supply chains, and behavior.

- Avoid disposable products and excessive packaging.
- Prioritize purchasing products made from recycled goods when possible.
- Buy the most durable products and parts available.
- Consider whether an item is easily repaired, reused, or recycled before purchasing the item.
- Work with suppliers who are transparent about their sustainability and products.



RECYCLING TIPS

- Recondition and reuse products instead of buying new ones.
- Use up materials completely and allow containers to air dry before disposal.
- When cleaning containers and applicators, avoid methods that generate more waste.
- Separate wastes. Mixing waste makes reuse and recycling harder or impossible. It can also make previously safe materials hazardous which increases their danger and disposal costs.
- Find out if others can reuse your materials when you're done with them.
- Recycle materials or waste that cannot be reused whenever possible.



DISPOSING OF TOXIC WASTE

- **Prevent** - First and foremost, prevent wastes (including wash water) from entering storm drains: these lead straight to local lakes, rivers, and streams.
- **Identify** - Begin by identifying if a material is toxic before disposal. A waste is considered hazardous if it could be dangerous to human health, property, or the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists 450 types of hazardous wastes. In general, these materials are ignitable, reactive, corrosive, and/or toxic. Common hazardous wastes include:
 - Paints, thinners and solvents
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Polishing fluids
 - Coolants
 - Degreasers
 - Lead acid batteries
 - Acids/ caustics
 - Metallic compounds
 - Pesticides
 - Petroleum products
 - Mercury devices
 - Fluorescent or halogen bulbs
- **Estimate** - Once you've determined that a waste is hazardous, estimate how much of it you generate and accumulate: this will dictate how it can be transported and disposed of under state law. Next, contact the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to find out whether you can transport your waste yourself or if you must use a licensed hauler. The hauler must have an EPA identification number and deliver these wastes to a licensed treatment, storage and disposal facility.
- **Dispose**- Proper disposal will depend on how much waste is generated and the material's chemical properties. Even if a waste isn't hazardous, you may not be able to put it into a dumpster. State law prohibits some non-hazardous materials, such as liquids, soil, and landscape wastes, from entering the landfill. Before disposing of your waste call your local landfill or service provider to make sure it can be accepted.