



# RAMSEY COUNTY

Saint Paul –  
Ramsey County  
Public Health

Fall 2015

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Providing useful  
information  
to businesses  
licensed as  
hazardous  
waste  
generators by  
Ramsey County  
Environmental  
Health

# The HazWaste Quarterly

## Pollution Prevention - reduced wastes, increased profits, no risk. What's the catch? There isn't one!

Originating in California in 1992, Pollution Prevention Week gained widespread popularity in 1995, when it was celebrated on a national level. Here's what pollution prevention can do for your company.

### What is pollution prevention?

P2. Waste minimization. Source reduction. Buzzwords abound, but what do they all mean?

It's common sense. Pollution prevention (P2) is preventing waste from being created in the first place. Pollution (or waste) is an inefficient use of your company's resources and costs your business money. P2 begins by looking at the materials you use and how you use them, then coming up with ways to eliminate waste and create a safer workplace.

### What can P2 do for my business? Think of the true cost of waste:

- Lost material
- Wasted labor and production capacity
- Liability insurance
- Regulatory compliance costs

### Now, think of the benefits that P2 can bring:

- Reduced raw materials costs
- Higher productivity
- Healthier environment
- Reduced liability;
- Reduced regulatory costs;
- Reduced waste disposal costs
- A positive image with customers, employees and the public

Pollution prevention is smart business. It's good for the environment and it's good for your bottom line!



### What can I do in my workplace?

Good housekeeping pays off.

- Fix leaks promptly. Repair or replace malfunctioning equipment.

Prevent product losses.

- Running water costs money. Make sure hoses and sinks are shut off when not in use.

Manage your inventory tightly.

- Practice "first product in, first product out".
- Carefully consider bulk purchases to avoid unused product and costly disposal.

Get more out of what you use.

- Reuse or recycle solvents on-site to substitute for virgin products.

Invest in efficient equipment.

- Upgrade or automate continuous, long running processes.

Train your employees.

- Train operators in the latest, most efficient techniques.

Use less toxic products.

- Use products made from less toxic materials.
- Switch from chlorinated to plant or petroleum based solvents.

Buy products with less packaging.

- Talk with your vendors about your waste reduction goals. Request reusable or returnable packaging.

Celebrate Pollution Prevention Week  
September 21- September 27, 2015

## Websites worth watching

### Ramsey County

Provides hazardous waste compliance information, waste management assistance and training opportunities at [www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/hw/index.htm](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/hw/index.htm).

### BizRecycling

Offers solid waste recycling assistance, consultants, grants and much more at [www.lesstrash.com](http://www.lesstrash.com).



### Rethink Recycling

This business recycling guide can help your business recycle or dispose of almost anything at [www.rethinkrecycling/business](http://www.rethinkrecycling/business).

### Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Provides information on air, water and waste regulations that may impact your business at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us).

### Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP)

Offers waste reduction, pollution prevention and technical assistance to Minnesota businesses at [www.mntap.umn.edu](http://www.mntap.umn.edu).

### Minnesota Materials Exchange

Connects businesses that have reusable materials to those who can use them at [www.mnexchange.org](http://www.mnexchange.org).

## Changes to the self-audit program for pharmacies, long-term care facilities, veterinary and medical clinics

### Program evaluation

After an evaluation of the over-all self-audit program, we have decided to make some changes, which will affect the license renewal process, inspection frequency and license fees for pharmacies, long-term care facilities, veterinary and medical clinics.

### Original concept

The self-audit program was initially developed to make it more convenient for low-risk silver-only generators, like photo finishers or x-ray developers, to have their hazardous waste generation regulated through the completion and review of a self-audit form. Over the years, the program was modified to include other hazardous waste generators who generated different wastes, like laboratory and pharmaceutical wastes. It has become apparent that these other hazardous wastes streams are more complex and need more attention than can be provided by a self-audit form. Because of this, we are removing pharmacies, long-term care facilities, veterinary and medical clinics from the program.

### What changes

In the past, these businesses would receive a Self-Audit Report/License Renewal packet in October. Completion and submission of this form provided both information about the hazardous waste generated and managed and, after county review, renewed their hazardous waste license. The hazardous waste license fees were a flat fee, not based on the volume of waste generated. Additionally, these businesses were not inspected on a routine basis.

### Reinstatement into the regular inspection program

Going forward, these businesses will be sent an Annual Report/License Renewal packet in December. By completing this form, signing it and returning it to the county by January 31st, they will begin the license renewal process. Their license fees will be based on the volume of waste that is generated. There is a base fee, for the first 10 gallons of hazardous waste, which is the same for all generators. After the first 10 gallons, a per-gallon fee for each additional gallon generated will be charged. Pharmacies, long-term care facilities, veterinary and medical clinics are now in the regular inspection program and will be inspected on a routine basis.



### Questions or concerns

Contact Laura Piotrowski at [laura.piotrowski@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:laura.piotrowski@co.ramsey.mn.us) or 651.266.1185

## Have you heard? Commercial recycling requirements are changing

### Let BizRecycling® help you

By January 1, 2016, most businesses in the metro area must recycle at least three types of material, such as paper, glass, metal, or organics.

The Ramsey/Washington Counties Resource Recovery Project created BizRecycling to help businesses, like yours, add or expand recycling and organics programs. Here's a bonus - in addition to meeting this requirement - adding or expanding recycling service while decreasing garbage service can save your organization hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars a year!

### What we offer

- A site visit from one of our local knowledgeable consultants, who will custom-design a recycling plan for your facility (at no charge to your business).
- Grants up to \$10,000 for containers, labels, equipment and minor facility upgrades (our consultants can assist you in applying).
- Help with employee training (and other resources).
- No obligations.

### Success stories

Grand Ave. Veterinary Clinic cut their monthly trash bill by 40%, saving \$2,040 per year.

Metro Manufacturing is saving \$1,500 per year, while diverting 14,000 pounds of waste from landfills.

Ramsey County Care Center is saving an average of \$350 per month on their trash bill by reducing the number of pick-ups.

### Want to know more?

Visit [LessTrash.com](http://LessTrash.com) and click on Take Action or call 651.266.1199.

#### MN Statutes 115A.151 RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS; PUBLIC ENTITIES; COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

(a) ... an owner of a commercial building shall:

(1) ensure that facilities under its control, from which mixed municipal solid waste is collected, also collect at least three recyclable materials, such as, but not limited to, paper, glass, plastic, and metal; and

(4) "commercial building" means a building that:

(i) is located in a metropolitan county, as defined in section 473.121;

(ii) contains a business classified in sectors 42 to 81 under the North American Industrial Classification System; and

(iii) contracts for four cubic yards or more per week of solid waste collection;

## Questions, questions (and some answers!)

We are making our first shipment of hazardous waste. I'm not sure what to do with the manifest copies. I completed the required Department of Transportation training for hazardous waste generators, but it didn't mention where or when to send the copies. Please tell me how this is supposed to work and what is required of us.

All fully regulated hazardous waste generated in Minnesota must be shipped using a Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest. There are six copies for each manifest. When the shipment leaves your site, you are left with a two signature copy - your signature and the transporter's. Keep this copy for your records. The transporter takes the other copies to the treatment facility.

Once the waste is received by the treatment or disposal facility, they sign the manifest and will send the three signature copy (called the "facility" copy) back to you within 30 days; keep a copy of this for your records. If you are a Large Quantity or Small Quantity Generator, send a copy of the three signature manifest to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); if you are a Very Small Quantity generator, send a copy to the metro county mail address. By sending a copy to the appropriate location, you have completed your obligation for this shipment.

If you do not receive the three signature copy within 35 days of shipment, contact the transporter and the facility to determine the status of your shipment. If you do not receive this copy within 45 days of shipment, submit an exception report to the MPCA to document the shipment and your efforts to determine the status of your waste shipment.

Each shipping record is required to be kept on-site for three years and be available for inspection. It is recommended that you keep them forever to provide a record of your company's waste disposal history.

For additional information on the use of hazardous waste manifests, see the MPCA fact sheet: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=8999>





Printed on  
100% recycled paper

*Environmental Health staff conduct solid and hazardous waste inspections,  
provide technical assistance, outreach and training to Ramsey County businesses.*

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**More information?**

Phone: 651.266.1199 | Fax: 651.266.1177

[www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/hw/business\\_waste\\_assistance\\_program.htm](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/hw/business_waste_assistance_program.htm)

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**Comments on the newsletter?**

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