

Pollution Prevention



Labels tell you:

- **How to use a product safely and effectively**
- **How to store the product safely**
- **First aid instructions**

Pollution prevention is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect your family, children, pets and community. Even small pollution prevention efforts can make a positive impact.

Pollution Prevention Tips

Shop Smart:

- Buy products with less packaging or packaging that can be reused or recycled.
- Buy quality products that will last for a long time.
- Buy only what you need, and use all of a product before purchasing more—especially when purchasing items that are toxic such as pesticides, some paints and cleaning products.
- Look for the least toxic products to meet your needs. Many environmentally-friendly alternative items, such as household cleaners and degreasers, can be found on the shelves of most grocery and hardware stores.
- Reuse shopping bags or ask that your purchases be put into as few bags as possible.
- Borrow or rent items you do not use often instead of buying them.



Recycle:

- According to CU Boulder, Coloradoans generate 4.4 pounds of waste per day per person.
- Glass, aluminum, paper, cardboard, antifreeze, used car oil and other automobile fluids can all be recycled.
- Many trash companies offer curbside recycling. If your service does not, you can find a local recycling facility by looking in the phone book under “Recycling.”
- Donate unwanted paints, pesticides, chemicals, furniture, clothes and appliances to friends, neighbors, community groups or charitable organizations.

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Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs that use 75% less energy than incandescent lamps, emit 90% less heat and last longer. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, replacing your five most used lights with energy-efficient lighting could save you \$60 per year in energy costs.

Prevent Automobile Pollution:

- Carpool, use public transportation, walk or ride your bike to work instead of driving.
- Run errands on your way to or from work or organize them so that you are not driving unnecessary miles.
- Make sure your car is running well to avoid costly repairs, reduce pollution, and improve the mileage of your vehicle.
- Stop filling your gas tank after the first “click” to reduce vapors. Do not “topoff” your tank.
- If you are buying a car, consider buying the most fuel-efficient model. The new gas/electric Hybrid car can get more than 50 miles per gallon.
- Clean out your trunk! You get 4% less gas mileage for every 100 pounds of extra cargo, and less gas mileage means your car releases more emissions that pollute the environment.

Limit Chemical Use:

- Try using a plunger or boiling water to unclog drains before using a chemical drain opener.
- Pull weeds by hand instead of using a chemical herbicide. Good topsoil will help your plants to grow and will decrease the number of weeds in your garden or yard

Conserve Water:

- Water plants and lawns only when necessary. This will help them to establish deep, strong root systems.
- Add compost to your garden and leave grass clippings on the lawn to improve soil and help it hold water.
- Consider planting your yard, or parts of your yard, with native plants that need less water.
- Repair leaking pipes, hoses and faucets as soon as possible.
- Install low-flow showerheads and toilets.

Conserve Energy:

- Turn off lights and appliances when you are not using them.
- Make sure appliances are working well. Before replacing a broken appliance, see if it can be repaired.
- Hang clothes out to dry instead of using the dryer. If you have to use the dryer, make sure the lint screen is clean before each use.
- Buy energy efficient appliances. Look for the EPA’s Energy Star™ logo.

For more information, contact:

- Tri-County Health Department Household Chemical Information Hotline 303-846-6249
- Colorado State University Cooperative Extension 970-491-6281 www.cerc.colostate.edu
- Earth 911: 1-800-CLEANUP (1-800-253-2687) or www.1800cleanup.com
- Ride Arrangers at 303-458-POOL (303-458-7665 or www.drcog.org/RideArrangers)
- Colorado Recycles: www.colorado-recycles.org