

Facts About...

Source Reduction in Retail Stores

SOURCE REDUCTION IN RETAIL STORES

















Maryland
Department
of the
Environment

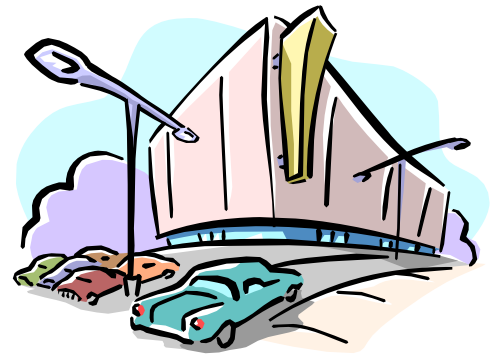
The Facts









Retail stores generate approximately 3 lbs./100 square feet of waste each day*. A breakdown of waste generation rates, by business, has been developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and is available at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WasteChar/WasteGenRates/default.htm. Additionally, www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WasteChar/BizGrpCp.asp, also developed by the CIWMB breaks down by material the waste disposed by business in order that areas for recycling or reducing the amount of waste can be identified. While specific to California, the data collected is a good guideline for similar businesses everywhere.

What is Source Reduction? Simply stated, Source Reduction is the elimination of waste before it is created. It involves the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials and products to reduce the amount or toxicity of what is thrown away. Source Reduction, can go a long way to reducing the costs associated with the transportation, disposal or recycling of waste. Best of all, practicing Source Reduction can save you money!

What Can the Store Do?

-  Purchase items in bulk.
-  Stock items that come in reusable containers.
-  Buy long-lasting appliances, fixtures and displays.
-  Buy high quality long-lasting tires for vehicles.
-  Control inventory closely to prevent waste.
-  Use fluorescent lights rather than incandescent lights.
-  Use rechargeable batteries where possible.
-  Get printer cartridges recharged.
-  Reuse emptied incoming boxes to package outgoing orders.
-  Return products to the supplier for reuse (e.g., containers and shipping pallets).
-  Have regional distribution centers ship products in reusable containers.
-  Use shredded waste paper for packing material.
-  Lease or rent infrequently used equipment.
-  Keep equipment in good working order. Establish preventive maintenance routines.
-  Donate unwanted items (i.e., food, clothing, equipment, electronics, furniture, wood) to organizations that care for the needy.
-  Give reusable mugs to employees, rather than buying disposable cups.



-  Reuse dishes, tableware, etc. in cafeteria.
-  Educate employees about source reduction.
-  Encourage customers to bring own containers to fill or refill.
-  Encourage customers to purchase in bulk.
-  Sell long-lasting appliances, fixtures.
-  Encourage customers to reuse cloth or mesh shopping bags to cut bag consumption.
-  Communicate your preferences to manufacturers, merchants, and community leaders.
-  Influence companies to reduce unnecessary packaging and the use of hazardous components in products by writing to them – express your opinion!



In 2000, Maryland started crediting its jurisdictions for source reduction activities. By conducting multi-faceted public education efforts, composting bin distributions, workshops, textile reuse projects, and Source Reduction training just to name a few, Maryland's jurisdictions can earn up to a 5% Source Reduction credit that is applied to their annual waste diversion rate. In 2005, Maryland's waste diversion rate of 42.6% (39.2% recycling rate and a 3.4% source reduction credit) exceeded Maryland's 40% waste diversion goal.

* CA. Integrated Waste Management Board Waste Generation Rates.

Sources:

1. National Office Paper Recycling Project, *Office Paper Recycling Guide*, 202-223-3089
2. EPA, *Waste Prevention Pays Off*, (EPA/530-K-92-005), 800-424-9346
3. EPA, *Business Guide for Reducing Solid Waste*, (EPA/530-K-92-004), 800-424-9346
4. EPA, *Reusable News*

*MDE would like to thank the Anne Arundel County Dept. of Public Works Waste Management Services
Recycling Division for the use of their source reduction informational sheets.*



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