

Pollution Prevention Checklist for Print Shops

Creating a Successful Pollution Prevention Program:

Establishing a Pollution Prevention (P2) program can result in significant cost savings while improving your facility's environmental performance, employees' health, and public image. Successful P2 programs depend on management support, leadership by a pollution prevention coordinator or team, and the involvement and training of all employees.

Use of this checklist

Answering the following questions will help you assess your current P2 activities. Any "NO" answers indicate areas you may wish to investigate further.

GOOD OPERATING PRACTICES	YES	NO
1. Do you keep tight fitting lids on containers when not in use, especially for solvents?		
2. Do you regularly inspect for and repair all leaks?		
3. Are employees trained in preventing and containing spills?		
4. Do you purchase materials only as needed and use a "first in, first out" policy? Do you keep accurate records of amounts of inks, solvents, and fountain solution used?		
5. Do you inspect raw materials and return unacceptable or damaged goods, including inks, to the supplier?		
6. Are photo-processing and plate-developing chemicals properly stored to minimize spoilage?		
7. Are all chemical containers properly labeled?		
8. Do you examine the MSDS of all new products being tried, and try to use products with less hazardous ingredients and lower in VOCs?		
9. Do you limit your acceptance of trial chemicals from vendors to those you may be truly interested in?		
PRINTING AND FINISHING		
1. Have you tried reducing or eliminating your use of alcohol in fountain solutions? Many companies have successfully eliminated alcohol from their fountain solutions, significantly reducing emissions of VOCs and lowering the risks to the health and safety of their workers.		
2. Do you use an automatic blanket washing system?		
3. Do you clean ink fountains only when changing to a different color or when the ink might dry out between runs?		
4. Do you try to adopt a standard ink sequence to minimize the need for cleaning?		
5. Do you wipe off excess ink before cleaning rollers with solvents or other cleaners?		



6. Have you tried low VOC (<50% VOC), water-miscible cleaning products? Water-miscible cleaning products tend to do a better job removing lint and dust, and are not as hard on rollers and blankets. Low VOC cleaning products are available which are effective for cleaning rollers and blankets, although they tend to dry more slowly. Using lower VOC cleaning products will reduce your VOC emissions, lower the risks to worker health and safety, and may reduce hazardous waste generation.		
7. For lithographic printing, have you tried vegetable oil-based, low VOC inks?		
8. For flexographic printing, have you tried water-based inks or UV curable inks?		
9. Do you calculate/estimate the amount of ink needed as carefully as possible to minimize waste?		
10. Do you recycle waste inks, either on-site or by sending them off site for recycling?		
11. Do you distill and reuse waste solvent on-site?		
12. Do you use water-based coatings which are low in ammonia?		
IMAGE AND PLATE PROCESSING		
1. Have you considered electronic imaging and laser platemaking?		
2. Are you using water-based plate processing? Do you recycle used plates?		
3. Have you tried extending the life of processing chemicals by adding replenishers?		
4. Do you recover silver from spent photographic chemicals, either on or off-site?		
5. Is used fixer treated prior to disposal?		
6. Do you recycle spoiled photographic film?		
WASTE PAPER AND CONTAINERS		
1. Do you minimize generation of waste paper? Do you segregate waste paper and recycle?		
2. Do you use recycled paper?		
3. Do you recycle empty 5-gallon and 55-gallon containers?		
4. Do you recycle other packaging wastes such as shrink wrap and corrugated cardboard?		

