

Important Note: The following text is excerpted directly from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's publication, *Environmental Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Self Assessment Guide for the Marina Industry*. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Pollution Prevention Unit. March 2003. The only changes that have been made are the addition of links to pertinent resources or regulations and Editor's Notes, where appropriate.

Solid Waste Regulations

In 1988, the Solid Waste Management Act put emphasis on waste reduction, reuse and recycling as primary solid waste management methods.

Every marina facility should be aware of what items they are discarding and how they are disposing of them. The best way to do this is to develop a solid waste management disposal plan for your shop. The first step in developing your plan is to conduct a waste audit of your business. A waste audit will show where you can improve your purchasing practices and help identify potential waste reduction and recycling options. Also, a waste audit will help you get accurate information on the nature and quantity of your waste. Businesses that implement waste reduction, reuse and recycling have benefitted by reducing costs.



Here are some waste reduction and recycling strategies your business can adopt:

- Use reusable shipping containers and pallets.
- Purchase reusable products and supplies.
- Recycle your office paper, plastics, glass, metal and other materials.
- Make sure your employees practice waste reduction and recycling methods.
- Purchase products with recycled content.
- Turn off computers, lights, and other electrical equipment when you leave for the day, or turn them off when not using them.
- Place trash receptacles in convenient locations for marina patrons, and at boat launch sites.
- Utilize 2-sided copying whenever possible, and use waste paper as scrap or draft paper.
- Use e-mail and automated forms whenever possible.
- Consolidate files and functions in order to reduce duplication.
- Use paper and other materials with recycled content.
- Encourage the use of coffee mugs and real spoons versus styrofoam and plastic.
- When purchasing print jobs, specify environmentally friendly options such as recycled paper, no extra packaging, and soy-based inks.
- Consider the total costs of energy, supplies, and waste pick-up and assign responsibility for waste reduction to the proper staff.
- Send copier and printer toner cartridges back to the supplier for refurbishing.
- Purchase products with less packaging.
- Purchase products made from recycled or post-consumer materials.
- Purchase only as much of a chemical as you can use and follow all label instructions.
- Try to find alternative products without hazardous contents that will accomplish the same task.
- Buy in bulk, when practical, but do not buy more than you can use before the product expires.
- Take batteries to recycling facilities.

- Mulch or compost your yard waste and vegetable scraps from your cafeteria.
- If necessary, caulk windows and doors and install storm windows, doors, and insulation to conserve energy.
- Use energy-efficient bulbs and fixtures and install light sensors in rooms.
- Use baking soda as a cleaner instead of more toxic solutions.
- When painting, use latex paints whenever possible.
- When using paint thinner for cleanup, save the used thinner in a covered bucket; the paint solids will settle to the bottom, and the thinner can be poured off and reused.
- Conserve energy by using energy-efficient heating and air conditioning systems that use solar power or natural gas.
- Install low-flow water faucets and low capacity toilets.
- Eliminate all leaks and take measures to minimize the potential for spills.
- Use non-toxic and recycled materials whenever possible.
- Improve the operating efficiency of equipment.
- Improve material receiving, storage, and handling practices and policies to reduce wasted product.
- Conduct a review of the use of raw materials and generation of wastes and consider the full cost of wasting.
- Recycle whatever wastes cannot be avoided.

In addition, you may want to identify the materials that comprise the largest portion of your waste stream and establish a separate recycling program targeting the materials identified.

To obtain a copy of the Waste Audit Reference Manual, call the DEC Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling at (518) 4028705.