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WOOD FURNITURE MANUFACTURING

A quick guide to essential pollution prevention (P2) information for furniture manufacturers, with a compilation of the best available on-line resources.

Why P2 for Wood Furniture Manufacturing Operations?

The Wood Furniture Manufacturing Topic Hub addresses the materials and processes involved in wood finishing. Many of the finishing materials and application methods have an adverse environmental impact. The coatings and adhesives used are often solvent-based, and traditional application technologies, such as manual spray guns cause over-spraying, increasing air emissions of VOCs and other hazardous air pollutants. Sources of solid and hazardous waste include cleaning solvents and rags, spray booth filters and strippable lining, and other absorbent materials.

How Can Wood Furniture Manufacturers Prevent Pollution?

Traditional sealers and topcoats are 25 percent solids or less, meaning that 75 percent or more of the coating purchased evaporates and is wasted. Increasing the Transfer Efficiency (TE), solids content of the coating, and/or switching to alternative coatings can reduce operating costs by reducing virgin material purchase and waste management costs.

Harmful chemicals are released into the air when solvent-based coatings are used. Increasing the solids content of the coatings and/or switching to alternative coating can reduce the impact on workers safety and health.

Minimizing the quantity of hazardous materials used, waste generated, and air emissions can reduce or eliminate certain regulatory requirements as well as improve worker health and safety, and reduce liability.

Best P2 Resources at Your Fingertips

Topic Hubs are peer-reviewed on-line primers that include background and operational information plus specific opportunities for pollution prevention. They include an extensive list of links for the "best of the best" online resources: manuals, checklists, fact sheets, case studies, etc. The Wood Furniture Manufacturing Topic Hub also links to a database of environmental assistance programs and initiatives in the Northeast.

Topic Hubs are valuable resources for P2 programs, regulators, environmental managers, and industry. P2Rx Centers have more than 60 Topic Hubs available on a wide range of issues covering many industrial sectors and topics. Check them out at www.p2rx.org/hubs.

Did You Know?

■ A traditional coating of 25 percent solids applied with a Transfer Efficiency (TE) of 25% results in only 6% of the original gallon of coating ending up on the finished piece and 94% wasted to evaporation and overspray.

■ If a gallon of paint weighs 8 pounds, and it is 75 percent solvents by weight (i.e. 25 percent solids), then by the time that gallon is used, 6 pounds of solvents have gone into the air for employees and neighbors of the facility to breath.

■ The EPA has promulgated a National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) specific to the wood furniture industry that contains work practice standards and sets limits on the HAP content of coatings.

■ Wastes from the wood finishing process are regulated as characteristic hazardous wastes because of ignitability and/or toxicity.

View the complete
Wood Furniture
Manufacturing
Topic Hub at
p2rx.org/hubs



The Wood Furniture Manufacturing Topic Hub was written by NEWMOA.

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How to Use the Topic Hub™ Web Resource

Access Any Topic Hub

Search Hub by Keywords

Navigate to all Subsections

Read an overview of the issues

Key References

Current Topic Hubs

Aerospace	Green Procurement	P2 for Hospital Sterilizers
Agricultural Teaching Labs	Hospitality	P2 and Environmental Security
Auto Body	Household Hazardous Materials	Paint and Coating Manufacturing
Auto Repair	Industrial Composting	Pollution Prevention (P2)
Auto Salvage—Great Lakes	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Schools	Pollution Prevention for Arts Education
Biotechnology Labs	Landscaping	Pork Production
Clean Snowmobiles	Lead	Printing-Flexography
Community Growth	Lean Manufacturing	Printing-Lithography
Construction Science Education	Marinas and Small Boat Harbors	Product Stewardship
Consumer P2	Meat Processing	Public Lands
Dioxin	Mercury	Publicly Owned Treatment Works
Dry Cleaning	Mercury-Automotive	Regulatory Integration
Economic Incentives	Mercury-Dental	Residential Construction
Electric Utilities	Mercury-Health Care	School Chemistry Laboratories and Education Facilities
Electronic Waste	Mercury-Schools	Semiconductor Manufacturing
EMS	Mercury-Thermometers	Ship Building and Repair
EMS in Government	Mercury-Thermostats	Ski Areas
Environmental Management Accounting	Metal Fabrication and Machining	Technology Diffusion
Environmental Measurement	Metal Finishing	Textiles
Environmental Mentoring	Oil and Gas	Wood Furniture Manufacturing
Fiberglass Fabrication	P2 for Area Source Categories	Youth Education
Food Service	P2 for Consumers	

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