

# Everyday P2 Tips

## What you can do

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### At School

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- [Waste Reduction](#)
- [Grounds/Maintenance](#)
- [Chemical Handling](#)
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#### General Tips:

- Develop a P2 team consisting of students, teachers, and administrators. Perform an energy or waste audit in the school and discuss implementing changes.
- Start an Eco-Club or P2 Club in your school.
- Use bio-diesel in diesel vehicles to improve mileage, and reduce emissions.
- Use bio based and alternate fuels to support farming and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

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#### Waste Reduction

- Recycle waste paper and other materials at your school.
- Print copies on both sides of each sheet of paper.
- Recycle items such as paper, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles; recycling these items requires less energy than producing them from brand new, raw materials.
- Use recycled products such as paper and other environment-friendly products such as water-based paints, and non-toxic floor and desk cleaners.
- Replace damaged doors and windows to reduce the need for heating and cooling in the building.
- Turn off lights during non-use hours. If possible put these on timers or motion sensors.
- Plug holes and caulk windows to stop heat loss.
- Set the thermostat at 55 °F in winter during non-use hours.
- Turn off all machines when not in use.
- Maintain heaters, air conditioners, refrigerators, and other energy using equipment to reduce the amount of energy used.
- Install energy efficient lighting in the school. (fluorescent instead of incandescent bulbs).
- Fix leaks in faucets and pipes.
- Only run the dishwasher when it is full.
- Bike, walk, or share rides to and from school.
- Use washable dishes in the cafeteria.
- Request an energy or waste audit from the [RETAP](#) program.

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#### Grounds\_Maintenance

- Use a minimal amount of fertilizers on school grounds or try finding natural alternatives to fertilizing. Fertilizers can migrate into water bodies and harm aquatic ecosystems.
- Use sand on icy walks instead of salt, which pollutes water and can harm plants. Do not pour hazardous materials, such as science class chemicals down the drain because they can eventually be released into drinking water sources.
- Dispose of all litter in trash cans so that the litter does not get washed into nearby storm sewers.

- Plant native flora which do not require irrigation or chemical upkeep. Ask a local nursery if they will work with you to provide native plants on school grounds.
- Encourage employees or contractors to use integrated pest management.
- Only spray pesticides when children are out of school.
- Follow pesticide label instructions and wear protective equipment such as gloves and a face mask. The person applying pesticides should be a registered technician or certified applicator.
- Purchase only the amount of pesticides needed so they don't create a storage or waste problem. Store pesticides in a secure place.
- Do not (1) mix pesticides with everyday trash, (2) wash them down sewers or drains, or (3) dump them on the ground. Locate a [Clean Sweep](#) free disposal site.
- Practice water-efficient landscaping. If school grounds must be watered, do so in the morning or evening so water will soak into root systems and not be lost to evaporation. Also, school grounds should not be watered more than every third day and not on windy days.

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### Chemical Handling

- Use non-[mercury](#) containing thermometers and equipment. As of December 2004, Michigan schools are prohibited from having mercury on site.
- Use safer alternatives to hazardous materials. For example, use detergent-based cleaners instead of caustics, which are corrosive, and water-based cleaners instead of toxic solvents.
- Store chemicals and hazardous wastes properly whether from science storerooms, art classrooms, custodial cleaning or yard maintenance to avoid unauthorized use or spills.
- Properly dispose of chemicals that are no longer useful or needed, or that are unknown.
- Purchase only the needed amounts of chemical supplies to avoid disposing of extra, unused materials.
- Try alternatives to products labeled with the words "Danger," "Warning," or "Caution." For example, buy a safe bleach product that does not have a label that reads "Danger."
- Use the least amount of product needed to complete the job.
- Do not mix chemicals and hazardous wastes with everyday trash, or dump them on the ground.
- Encourage employees or contractors to use integrated pest management and use non-chemical pest control methods such as swatters for insects and mechanical traps for mice.
- Only spray pesticides when children are out of school.
- Follow pesticide label instructions and wear protective equipment such as gloves and a face mask. The person applying pesticides should be a registered technician or certified applicator.
- Do not purchase excess pesticides.
- Store pesticides in a secure place.
- Do not (1) mix pesticides with everyday trash, (2) wash them down sewers or drains, or (3) dump them on the ground.
- Keep lockers and the building clean and dry so that the school building is unattractive to pests.

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### Links:

- [Saving Money and Reducing Trash at School](#) (pdf file)
- [Pollution Prevention Strategies for College Campuses](#)
- [Minnesota's Consumer Handbook to Reducing Waste](#)
- [Teaching and Research Materials for Faculty](#)

- ["Three Rs" Coloring Books](#)
- [Green Schools Checklist - Illinois](#)