



July 1997

1997 Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention

Container Care

Seattle, Washington

The Environmental Protection Agency's 1997 Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention honors the environmental efforts of Container Care in Seattle, Washington. Container Care's commitment to safeguarding the environment makes the company a deserving recipient of this recognition.

Container Care is an off-dock facility for the storage and repair of intermodal containers and chassis.

Pollution Prevention Success

Since designing a pollution prevention plan to reduce waste generated from its equipment repair, service and cleaning operations, Container Care's efforts to streamline its procedures have resulted in lower disposal costs and increased productivity.

- o By switching from cup-gun spray painting to using paint brushes and rollers, the company eliminated the use of paint thinner and significantly reduced emissions of volatile organic compounds to the air.
- o Larger painting jobs are now accomplished using a high volume/low pressure spray gun, and an enclosed spray gun cleaning system reuses non-hazardous cleaning solvent. By recycling the remaining waste materials, Container Care actually receives a 54% recycling credit from their recycler, SOL-PRO.
- o Installation of a wastewater recovery and recycling system has eliminated all water discharges from the company's operations. The new system not only reduced Container Care's water bills but also eliminated their water discharge fees.
- o Substituting alcohol-based cleaners for previously used solvent-based aerosol cleaners means that Container Care's waste oils are no longer considered "extremely hazardous," and a portion of the oils can now be handled through a local recycler.
- o By using non-hazardous cleaning solutions in the parts washers and installing a filter that extends the useful life of the cleaning solutions from one month to one year, the company has minimized waste production.

Through such a wide variety of process changes, Container Care has reduced the amount of hazardous waste generated from 18,235 pounds in 1992 to only 3,949 pounds of hazardous waste in 1995!

Commitment to Environmental Quality

Managers at Container Care decided many years ago that environmental and safety concerns are just as important as quality production and customer service. The management team encourages its employees to seek out pollution prevention solutions whenever possible, and advocates resource conservation, recycling, environmental cost accounting, and compliance with environmental laws. The company values open communication regarding its environmental status with employees, as well as current and potential customers.

Environmental Leadership

Container Care's commitment to environmental stewardship means sharing its expertise with others. Whether that means communicating with other businesses through international trade show presentations or speaking from experience at Department of Ecology pollution prevention seminars, Container Care enthusiastically shares its pollution prevention expertise with others.

Container Care received the 1996 Washington Governor's Award for Outstanding Leadership in Pollution Prevention.

The Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention

EPA's Evergreen Award recognizes outstanding pollution prevention efforts within all sectors of the greater Pacific Northwest business community. For more information about the Region 10's Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention, contact:

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For more information about Container Care's environmental achievements, contact Bob Bunch, Container Care's Special Projects Manager, at (206) 624-8180.