

Preventing Pollution In Your Home
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This Week is National Pollution Prevention Week. Aberdeen Proving Ground is offering exciting opportunities to see pollution prevention in action through facility tours, training, a paint symposium and a video presentation. Pollution prevention is the preferred approach for managing the environment throughout the Department of Defense, and it is also the best approach for our own homes.

Homeowners use up to 10 times more toxic chemicals per acre than farmers. By choosing non-toxic products in your home, like cleaners and paints, you reduce possible health risks and other environmental harm.

Did you know that low-flow shower head can reduce water consumption by as much as 50 percent and that showers usually account for as much as 32 percent of home water usage? The dry summer of 1997 is a good motivator to buy low-flow shower heads for your home. You probably will not notice a difference in the water pressure, but you may notice the savings on your water bill. An average toilet uses from 5 to 7 gallons of water each time it is flushed? This number can be lowered by installing a water-saver toilet or by placing a water-filled plastic jug in the back of the toilet.

You can save yourself money while saving energy. Substituting a compact fluorescent light bulb for a traditional bulb will keep about a half ton of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb. When painting or redorating, light colors will maximize brightness and may reduce electrical use. Close window shades or blinds at night in the winter and during the day in the summer. Use caulks and foam sealants can eliminate leaks around doors and windows. SEE BGE book

Another simple way you can make a difference for the environment is by buying products made from recycled materials. Did you know that 6,000 plastic soda bottles can be made into 200 square yard of carpet? Carpet made from recycled soda bottles is both attractive and durable. Recycled paper products are more readily available and less expensive than they used to be. Look for products with the highest amount of post-consumer content as possible. Post-consumer means that the materials you recycle are used in making the product rather than scraps from the manufacturing process ????. Outdoor pool and patio furniture that looks like wood can be made from recycled plastic. These products never need painting or sealing and you can buy them in a variety of colors.