



eSafetyLine

What is Green Chemistry?

Green Chemistry is the newest branch of chemistry to hit consumers; whether at the work place or at home. Most simply put, green chemistry is the design of chemical products and processes that can help to reduce or eliminate the use and manufacturing of hazardous substances. The point is that the fewer hazardous substances around means there is less hazardous waste and potentially a healthier environment.

Green chemistry is based on 12 principles that were developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to the 1990 Pollution Prevention Act. The general point of these 12 principles is to decrease the hazards that chemical production and use bring to humans and the environment. Many of the principles deal specifically with chemical manufacturing but some have practical uses for everyday life.

- Prevent waste- Purchase and use the least amount of a chemical that is needed to complete the necessary task. This will leave less waste to treat or clean up.
- Use safer chemicals- Chemicals should be used that have been designed to be fully effective and have little or no toxicity to humans or the environment.
- Use safer solvents- When buying and using solvents at the jobsite, it is possible to substitute a safer solvent that can be just as effective for one that has been in use and is more hazardous.

Green chemistry is considered a tool for limiting the negative impact of chemicals on the environment as well as a way to make chemical cleanup unnecessary. If hazardous chemicals are not used or introduced into the environment, cleanup will become obsolete.

Discussion Questions

What brought about the beginning of Green Chemistry?

What will Green Chemistry help with at the jobsite?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/_____

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date