



THE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION
Building Partnerships For Better Health Care

ABINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Environmental Purchasing Guidelines

Purpose

Abington Memorial Hospital will promote conservation both within the institution and the community. We will set an example to our community by integrating environmental awareness and responsibility. Our ethical commitment in healthcare to first do no harm will also be applied to our role as environmental stewards of the community. AMH will use safer and less toxic products to protect our patients and the environment.

Procedure

Goals:

- Consider economic, environmental, and social impact of decision making
- Reduce consumption of resources
- Reuse materials where possible
- Recycle when economically feasible
- Resell materials
- Educate and promote programs
- Purchase safer and less toxic products
- Explore alternative practices to minimize impact on the community

As AMH strives to become a green hospital, we are taking a number of steps to promote a healthier community by improving environmental management throughout this organization. A major aspect in this management is environmentally preferred purchasing (EPP). EPP is the purchase of products and services whose environmental impacts have been considered and found to be less damaging to the environment and human health as compared to competing products and services. The following principles should be taken into consideration when examining purchasing alternatives. These principles strive to improve the health of our members and communities by reducing exposure to toxic substances. Quality, service, and total cost components must also be considered with the following principles:

An alternative is preferable if:

- Less can be used
- Resources are conserved (e.g. electric, gas, labor, chemicals, water)
- Waste is reduced or eliminated
- Toxicity is reduced or eliminated
- Recycling is feasible
- Functionality and effectiveness are comparable
- Less packaging is used
- Ownership is less costly

Specific Environmental Criteria for all Purchasing Decisions

Avoid Products containing:

- Persistent bioaccumulative toxic compounds
- Bisphenol-A
- Carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxic chemicals
- Halogenated flame-retardants and other halogenated organic chemicals
- Mercury
- Phthalates (DEHP)

Promote the Purchase of these Products:

- Building products, materials and furnishings that do not adversely impact indoor air quality
- Building products, materials and furnishings that are approved by National Facilities Services Planning & Standards
- Products with high post-consumer recycled content
- Products that are readily recycled, reprocessed and/or reused
- Products that are latex-free
- Products that contain minimal to no toxins
- Products that have "Take Back" provisions
- Paper products that are chlorine-free

Encourage Vendors to:

- Package and transport units in minimally with recyclable, non-toxic, and/or bio-based packaging
- Manufacture products that use less energy and water during normal use and manufacturing
- Manufacture products that are mercury-free, latex-free, and non toxic