



USAG
Schweinfurt

Environmental Division-Newsletter

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Environmental Services:

- Environmental Management System
- Environmental compliance training and assistance
- Hazardous Material/ Hazardous Waste management
- Natural and cultural resources management

If you have any questions, please contact us at 354-6795 or

environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil

We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem!

WELCOME HOME WARRIORS!



A very warm welcome home to all returning Soldiers of the 172nd infantry Brigade! We are glad to see you back here in Schweinfurt. The Environmental Division wishes all returning or recently returned Soldiers a smooth reintegration back into the community and of course a happy reunion with your families.

Merry Green Christmas!



Now that Christmas is quickly approaching and you're thinking of buying presents for your loved ones, it's also time to think of the environment. In the US, 5 million extra tons of trash are generated between Thanksgiving and New Year's! Just remember the following tips during your Christmas preparations to contribute to environmental protection:

- Buy food and drinks packaged in recyclable materials, such as paper and glass. Also, buy loose rather than pre-packed vegetables.
- Use wrapping paper and Christmas cards with recycled paper content or send your cards via e-mail.
- Choose reusable decorations that don't consume energy, e.g. stars made of translucent paper.
- Buy environmentally friendly products such as energy efficient electronics and gifts without unnecessary packaging.
- Switch off any electric Christmas decorations during the daytime and when you are not at home.
- Use energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) decorative lighting.
- Pass any unwanted presents on to your local charity shop (e.g. the Thrift Shop or Freecycle Center) - there is sure to be someone who will like them!



Merry Christmas from the Environmental Division!

Accidents with Household Cleaning Agents



Many accidents with chemicals are caused by the mixing of acids (pH 1-3, e.g. toilet and bath cleaners such as Ringmaster All Purpose Bathroom Cleaner and Greenworks Bathroom Cleaner) with bases (pH 8-12, e.g. limescale remover and disinfectants such as Simple Green ® All-Purpose Cleaner and Clorox ® Regular Bleach). Toxic fumes such as chlorine gas may be released into the air if these products are mixed or incorrectly used. This can lead to chemical burns on the respiratory tract and lungs.

It is important that you ALWAYS follow the instructions on the cleaning agents!

Christmas Tree Pickup

After Christmas, when you no longer need your Christmas tree any more, from **6 January** on you can put it in front of your house near the road. It will be picked up by the DPW in the following few days.





Earth Friendly Shopping at Your Local Commissary & Post Exchange

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) works continuously to cut energy costs and protect the environment by building energy-efficient stores; monitoring and reducing energy consumption; and recycling plastic, wood and paper products. These measures, combined with an increased inventory of environmentally friendly products, are all part of DeCA's "Go Green" corporate initiative. In October 2007, commissaries began offering re-usable, recyclable bags. DeCA also added energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs or CFLs – the swirl-shaped bulbs – to its household goods aisle. Stores also stock green cleaning products including floor and surface cleaners, laundry softeners, tissues and wipes. More information about the "Go Green" initiative is available at www.commissaries.com.



One of AAFES Sustainability Goals is to increase procurement, marketing, and sales of environmentally friendly goods and services. AAFES currently offers more than 120 Energy-Star-rated items in its stores, catalog and online. Earth Friendly product information, useful links and other helpful environmental information is available at www.aafes.com.



Check out:

- Natural Cosmetics (Aveeno, Jason, Nature's Gate, Alba or Avalon)
- Products with the USDA ORGANIC label throughout DeCA
- Fish with the Marine Stewardship Council label or Dolphin Safe label
- Natural cleaners, laundry soaps, and dish detergents (Seventh generation, green works)
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- Re-useable shopping bags



For further information feel free to call the Environmental Division at DSN 354-6795 or CIV 09721-966795. You can also visit us at the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Building 251 or send an email to environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil

Check out:

- Natural cleaners and laundry soaps (Seventh generation, Mrs. Meyers, method home)
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- Energy-Star-rated items (e.g. computer, printers)
- Lead-free displays (e.g. TVs, computer screens)
- Re-useable shopping bags



Offices Located in Basements (with Small Windows)

Many buildings in the USAG Schweinfurt have offices located in the basement, which need to be ventilated properly, especially during the winter months.

If several people are in a room, the oxygen in the room is soon used up. Each individual consumes oxygen and releases carbon dioxide, water vapor, and heat to the environment. This causes the air humidity, carbon dioxide level and temperature to rise, resulting in fatigue, concentration problems, and headaches.

By opening windows for short intervals of 4-6 minutes at least 3-4 times a day and by maintaining moderate room temperatures, conditions in the room will remain comfortable. For best results open windows opposite each other to create a draft.



Rooms which are not frequently used also need to be ventilated on a regular basis. Ventilation helps to keep the temperature balanced, removes airborne particles, pollutants and humidity, and prevents mold growth.

Proper ventilation is good for your health and the environment!

Recommendation: Please do not leave your windows tilted during the heating period because this causes the cooling of window recesses, resulting in energy loss and mold growth.

Environmental Management System (EMS) - Management Review

On 9 November 2009, the Management Review of the Garrison EMS was conducted. During these annual meetings the efficiency of the EMS is assessed by Garrison management, including the Garrison Commander. The purpose is to evaluate the progress and development of environmental management over the past year to then establish improvement objectives for the next 12 months.



An EMS is a structured approach to control and minimize the environmental impact of an organization's operations and aims at continual improvement. Main focus areas, the "significant aspects", are identified where attention is especially required. During 2009, two additional aspects were defined as significant: hazardous waste generation and use/storage of Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL). Together with the existing significant aspects of energy consumption and solid waste generation, they form the focus for next year's efforts in further improving the Garrison's environmental performance.