



- Inside this Newsletter you will find:
- Proper heating and airing
 - Tree of the Year 2012: European Larch
 - Merry Christmas!
 - Clearing of paths during winter
 - Recycling
- Environmental Services we provide:

- 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

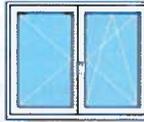
We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem!

Proper heating and airing



During winter it is especially important to practice proper heating and airing. Therefore follow the following steps:

1. Turn off your heat COMPLETELY.
2. Open windows/doors WIDE.
3. Air up to 5 minutes.
4. Close windows/doors.



5. Turn heat back on.

REPEAT PROCEDURE SEVERAL TIMES A DAY and NEVER TILT WINDOWS! The advantage of this intermittent ventilation is that the stored warmth remains in the walls and after closing the windows the room air quickly reaches the desired temperature again.

Tree of the Year 2012: European Larch



European Larch in Askren Manor (photo: Angelika Elliott)

In Germany the European Larch was declared "Tree of the Year 2012" by a board of scientists, associations and experts. The board's goal is to inform people about the specialties of selected trees. This selection has been done for 22 years. A similar national selection does not exist in the United States; but locally the "Tree of The Year" is selected, e.g. in Austin Texas.

European Larch is a species of larch native to the mountains of central Europe, the Alps, Carpathian, and Sudeten Mountains. The larch is a conifer but one cannot use it as a Christmas tree because it loses its needles in fall. In spring the needles grow back in clusters. They are about 2 cm long and flat; approximately 20 needles make a bunch. The tree trunk reaches up to 1.5 to 2 meters in diameter. When the larch is approximately 600 years old its height will be about 55 meters. The roots are heart-shaped and anchored deep in the ground, which makes the tree very sturdy. Additionally, the roots can reach very deep running water and the tree can survive even in difficult terrain. Larch trees have male and female cones. The male cones are 5-10 mm long, egg-shaped, and yellow. The female cones are larger, about 10-20 mm high, egg-shaped, and stand upright on the branch.



Male and female cones (photo: Wikipedia)

Merry Christmas from the Environmental Division



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 U.S., 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 environmentally friendly products such as energy efficient electronics and gifts without unnecessary packaging.
- 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.
- Use energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) decorative lighting
- Switch off any electric Christmas decorations during the daytime and when you are not at home.
- Pass any unwanted presents on to your local charity shop (e.g. thrift shops or Freecycle Center) - there is sure to be someone who will like them!



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Clearing of paths during winter

In Germany, walkways and paths must be cleared from snow by the homeowner or tenant. Since landlords can and usually do pass this responsibility on to their tenants, renters also need to know about any possible winter duties. Every community has its own street cleaning statute which spells out the snow shoveling requirements in detail. **As a general rule, you should aim to clear a 70 to 120 cm wide path in front of the property you live between the hours of 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.**



At USAG Schweinfurt the requirements to clear paths depend on where you live. At Government Housing Areas and on post, clearing is taken care of through the Directorate of Public Works. For tenants living off post or in leased houses, agreements may differ. If you are uncertain ask your landlord or contact the Housing Office for help: 09721-96-6448 or 6712.



Here is a tip from the Environmental Division: After clearing the path use sand and/or gravel to prevent slippery sidewalks. Try to minimize the use of salt because it may harm the soil and groundwater. For details check http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/news/archives/newspage_3050.htm (this is also the main source of this article!)

Some Important Facts on Recycling



For further questions contact the DPW Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Division at 09721-96-6201 (DSN 354-6201) or the Garrison SORT-coordinator at 0162-2709403.

How to Recycle:

Garrison Commander LTC Runey announced that the internal recycling rate should be increased to 60% within the next fiscal year!

- The 5 main trash categories relevant for USAG Schweinfurt:
 - Paper**, e.g. catalogues, cardboard, paper egg cartons, shoe cartons, newspapers, cereal boxes
 - Glass**, e.g. soda/beer bottles (non-deposit), juice bottles, wine/liquor bottles, food jars (washed)
 - Plastic**, e.g. plastic bottles (non-deposit), milk cartons, shampoo bottles, wrapping, yoghurt cups
 - Cans**, e.g. soda/beer cans (non-deposit), food/coffee cans, pie tins, small pieces of scrap metal
 - Regular trash**, e.g. cigarette butts & ashes, candles, napkins, diapers, aluminum foil, old leather
- You can find containers for separating the 5 different types of trash in most of the buildings in the Garrison.
- Setting up a trash separating system is really easy! For example you can simply use a separate cardboard box for paper, plastic and glass and a lidded trash can for regular trash.
- If you live on post: Please separate your trash at home and bring it to a recycling center.
- If you live off post: Please separate your trash, it will be picked up by the municipality.



Recycling Centers at USAG Schweinfurt:

	Conn Recycling Center	Askren Manor Recycling Center	Ledward Recycling Center	Freecycle-Center (Ledward Bks.)
What:	Bring your separated trash	Bring your separated trash	Bring your separated trash	Bring items you don't need anymore and/or get items for free (books, toys, kitchen items, and much more!)
Where:	Bldg. 147	Bldg. 560	Bldg. 235	Bldg. 231
When:	Mon – Thu: 0730-1600 Fri: 0730-1430	Mon – Thu: 1030-1430, 1500-1900 Fri: 1030-1730 Sat: 0830-1200, 1230-1600	Mon – Thu: 0730-1200, 1230-1600 Fri: 0730-14:30	Mon & Thu: 0900-1300; Closed Tue, Wed, Fri

Recycling is **easy** and it doesn't take much time to **save money and protect the environment!** Reducing solid waste is an important part of a sustainable life style – don't forget about the future of our children's generation!