



“Solutions for Your Life”

12520 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774-3602
(727) 582-2100

www.pinellascounty.org/extension



Lawn & Garden | Commercial Horticulture | Families & Consumers | Florida Yards & Neighborhoods | 4-H Youth Development | Urban Wildlife

JUST THE FACTS:

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Mary Campbell, Pinellas County Extension

What is EPP?

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) is the procurement of goods and services that have a reduced impact on human health and the environment as compared to other goods and services serving the same purpose. EPP is all about smart purchasing. Environmentally Preferable products are long lasting, high-quality, less toxic, reusable, easy to recycle; use less materials, water and energy, minimizing the impact on the natural environment. Supporting the purchase of environmentally preferable products will increase the availability and lower the cost, as well as creating new business opportunities for green products. Don't assume that all environmentally friendlier products cost more - check the price and the life cycle cost before you decide.

Hints:

- The product is made from non- toxic materials
- It is reusable and durable
- It is made from recycled materials or can be recycled
- The product conserves energy or water
- It is made from plant-based raw materials

Why is it Important?

EPP provides a variety of benefits from financial, to health and the environment. Economic benefits include reducing materials consumption, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving energy and water, and increasing the use of renewable products. Avoiding hazardous substances can reduce pollution and human health costs.

Other Resources:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - <http://www.epa.gov/epp/>

EPP Purchasing in 5 Easy Steps - www.newdream.org/procure/epp.pps

Green Seal – www.greenseal.org

Energy Star- www.energystar.gov

National Association of Counties – www.naco.org/prgrams/environ/purchase.cfm

Buying Green the Easy Way. Jessica Stine, Editor. Campus Ecology Program, National Wildlife Federation, 1999. <http://www.nwf.org/campusEcology/files/demystifying.pdf>