



## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

flexcel  
Post Falls, Idaho  
2005

### Environmental Commitment

flexcel, a division of Kimball International, is a metal fabrication facility that manufactures metal office furniture such as file cabinets, cubicle panels, and media carts. Its environmental policy reads:

*flexcel is dedicated to continued excellence, leadership and stewardship in protecting the environment.*

### Pollution Prevention Success

#### Hazardous Waste Reduction

flexcel replaced its traditional paint process with a powder coating operation thereby eliminating the need for paint booths, paints, solvents, and other associated wastes. This operation reduced hazardous waste generation by 60% and reduced volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions by approximately 200,000 pounds per year.

flexcel switched from a water-based glue process to other adhesives in their panel assembly operations, resulting in less landfill waste from this process.

Other benefits from reducing these hazardous waste streams include improved worker safety, a healthier work environment, reduced regulatory burden, fire prevention, and less staff time spent managing compliance activities.

#### Recycling

flexcel recycles 85% of its solid waste stream including scrap metals, excess powder from the coating operation, sawdust, wood, wood pallets, and machine oil.

#### Energy Efficiency

flexcel is currently changing all metal halide lighting fixtures to energy efficient T-5 fluorescent high bay lamps. This will conserve approximately 1,644,651 kilowatt hours of electricity per year, 44% of its current electricity usage.

#### Water Quality Protection

flexcel eliminated iron phosphate from its industrial wastewater treatment process, reducing the level of phosphate sent to the Post Falls wastewater treatment facility and eventually discharged to the Spokane River. In addition, this process change is estimated to conserve energy (natural gas) and save the company about \$50,000 annually.

#### Community Involvement

flexcel employees participate in Idaho's Adopt-a-Highway program, maintaining a strip of Interstate 90 at the Idaho-Washington border.

## For More Information

Contact Terry Hentges at (208) 777-6686.

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