



Fort Gordon, Ga.

# Green Matters

**DPW Environmental Office and Natural Resources**

## Upcoming Training

- Mar. 12 Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945- Bldg 11307
- April 28 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR Cross-Functional Team Meeting, 1300-1400; DPW Conf Rm, Bldg 14600



## HOW TO HAVE A TRULY GREEN ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Chicago River St. Patrick's Day 2014

March 17 marks St. Patrick's Day, a day that celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. St. Patrick led the evangelistic move in northern Ireland converting "thousands" of pagans to Christianity in the fourth century. He is said to have died on March 17.

Celebrations and traditions carry on today to honor Ireland's foremost saint. The "wearing of the green" quickly became a

custom. St. Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three leaved plant, to represent the Holy Trinity when he was evangelizing in Ireland. Since the 1640s, the color green has been always associated with Ireland and by at least the 1680s it became customary to wear green ribbons and shamrocks in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

A common tradition is turning rivers green during St. Paddy's celebration, but what is exactly going into the waters? Is it safe for the environment and aquatic wildlife?

Chicago is well know for turning the Chicago River green for 50 years now. Originally, 100 pounds of fluorescent dye was used to turn the river green for a week. This idea came about from plumbers. They used the fluorescent dye to check for illegal sewage discharges. Environmentalist caught wind of this practice and didn't like the use of it because of the possible harmful side effects to the wildlife. Today they use 40 pounds of vegetable dye which is claimed to be safe for the environment. It only last for several days.

On a different note, St. Patrick's day is a booming holiday that unfortunately can pack a big punch to the environment. From inflatables popping up everywhere and eventually making there way to the land fields, to all the green, cheap plastic plates and cups and all out decorations that are purchased. Could we possible find a way to celebrate this holiday without harming our "green" planet in the process. Here are some tips to have a truly green St. Patrick's Day:<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

- Wear green
- Don't buy decorations
- Decorate "green" from Mother nature with fresh cut greens
- Recycle those beer cans and bottles
- Pick up your trash after parades and other festivities
- Just have fun and respect Mother nature in the process

## Inside this issue:

Green is Not so "Green"	2
Compliance Corner: Storage Tanks	3
Turkey Season Highlights	4
Upcoming Army Earth Week festivities	4

# Green Is Not So "Green"



“The color green can never be green, because of the way it is made. It’s impossible to dye plastic green or to print green ink on paper without contaminating them,” Michael Braungart, author of *Cradle to Cradle*.

Nothing could be greener than on St. Patrick’s Day. Rivers dyed green, to the green décor and beads, to clothing and dinner ware. But by being so green or we really being “green” at all. Let’s take a closer look at what exactly goes into the making of the color green. In nature green is as green can be, but when man steps in to try and replicate it the outcome results in using chemicals that are toxic and harmful to the environment and people as well.



Michael Braungart, a German chemist and co-author of *Cradle to Cradle*, the best selling sustainable design book states that “the color green can never be green, because of the way it is made. It’s impossible to dye plastic green or to print green ink on paper without contaminating them” How ironic is that!

Artists even struggled in the Italian Renaissance to the 18th century romanticism to reproduce true colors of green paint. Having to use harmful chemicals to stabilize the color is where the problem begins. For example, Pigment Green 7 is used the most in plastics and paper and it contains chlorine which some types can cause cancer and birth defects. Pigment 36 contains bromide atoms and chlorine which can also be hazardous. Pigment 50 , a noxious soup of sorts, has a very volatile mixture of all – cobalt, titanium, nickel, and zinc oxide.

Industries today struggle as much as people did centuries ago and making a truly green color. Some colors of green

in the early days were so corrosive that they burned holes into canvas, paper, and wood. Interestingly enough, it is thought that Napoleon Bonaparte’s death could be linked to the "rotting green and gold walls" wall-paper made with arsenic in the cold, damp cell at Saint Helena where he died in 1821.

In light of this, it makes it difficult to recycle plastics and papers that are green because of the potential harm to contaminate the environment.

The “Green” movement first peaked in 1971 when Canadian protesters chartered a ship to voice their disapproval with nuclear testing in Alaska and called it “Greenpeace” and shortly after gave that name to themselves. That paved the way for the “green” explosion across the world. Today you see some sort of green emblem on organic foods and cleaning products that scream “eco-friendly” and sustainable products. Even the design and marketing world boast “green design”, “green energy”, “green architecture”, and so on.

The only true green is found in nature . It can’t be duplicated by man. Perhaps this is a wake up call to us all to preserve and enjoy our truly green earth and focus on protecting the true “green” for future generations to enjoy without fear of toxins .

Now that we know the true nature of the color green, maybe we will think twice before we purchase products that are a shade of green, and remember its history as well as its potential in the future to contaminate our truly green earth.<sup>5,6</sup>





# Compliance Corner

## Storage Tanks

**Bulk Storage Containers:** any container used to store petroleum products such as motor fuel, petroleum solvents, heating oil, lubricants, used oil, etc. These containers are used for purposes including, but not limited to, the storage of petroleum products prior to use, while being used, or prior to further distribution in commerce. Tank types at Fort Gordon include: aboveground (AST) or completely buried/underground (UST), integral generator/AST's, drums, fuel PODS, and used cooking oil containers. Tanks that hold 55 gallons or more are regulated per 40 CFR 112 which, along with the Clean Water Act (CWA), drives the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC).



## Why it is important to Manage Storage Tanks

If not properly managed, these storage tanks could leak contaminants into the soil and into our water supplies. Petroleum products are made up of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The least amount could do significant damage to our environment and human health. Ft. Gordon has an active tank management program.

---

## Prevention Measures

- Consider the location: Are the tanks near drinking water wells, streams, ponds, ditches, storm drains, or sanitary sewers, wetlands, mudflats, navigable waters ,etc.
- Corrosion Control
- Secondary containment
- Routine inspections
- Remove inactive tanks
- Integrity testing periodically
- Secure tanks by closing and locking all valves

---

## Common Storage Tank Facts

- A spill of only one gallon of oil can contaminate a million gallons of water
- It's much easier to take measures to mitigate spills than to clean one up
- Discharges can and sometimes occur (human error, tank/piping/equipment failure)
- Routine inspections, maintenance, testing, secondary containment and expeditious spill response are essential
- All facilities (including Federal) that meet minimum storage capacities must comply with laws/regulations <sup>7</sup>



US ARMY  
Environmental  
and Natural  
Resources  
Division

Phone: 706-791-2526

E-mail: [usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-enrmo@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-enrmo@mail.mil)

Fort Gordon Green  
Matters Like us  
on Facebook

## Sources

- 1-[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Patrick's\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick's_Day)
- 2-<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2010/03/greening-a-river-and-the-white-house-for-st-patricks-day/37602/>
- 3-<http://www.postconsumers.com/education/five-tips-for-a-very-postconsumer-st-patrick%E2%80%99s-day/>
- 4-<http://organicmania.com/2008/03/11/10-tips-for-greening-an-eco-friendly-st-patrick%E2%80%99s-day/>
- 5-<http://www.mnn.com/your-home/remodeling-design/stories/the-color-green-isnt-actually-green>
- 6-[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/05/arts/05iht-design5.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/05/arts/05iht-design5.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)
- 7-[http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/pubs/fs\\_swpp\\_ast.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/pubs/fs_swpp_ast.pdf)



# Coming Soon... Army Earth Day

April 22- Wednesday

Wilkerson Lake

1100-1300

*Displays, exhibits, and special giveaways for Environmental Officers*

For questions email at [usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-enrmo@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-enrmo@mail.mil)

## Turkey Season

Turkey season opens 21 March and closes 15 May 2015.

The limit is 3 gobblers per season.

Hunters must sign in and out at the boards on 111th Street for TA 1 thru 47 or at the sign in/out board in TA 48 or TA 49. For more information contact Rob Drum @ 706-791-6374/9209.

