

## NORMAC KITCHENS

Founded in 1968, Normac Kitchens is a leading kitchen cabinet manufacturer with offices in Canada and the United States. The facility, located in Thornhill, Ontario has committed to reducing the use of toxic substances.

The implementation of toxics reduction and pollution prevention plans coupled with excellent staff participation has led to positive changes in workplace culture. These changes include increased awareness, higher levels of motivation and conscientiousness and greater attention to detail – all of which result in better quality products.

Environmental sustainability is a part of our everyday lives and factors in to many of the

choices we make, including the products we buy. The construction industry has been moving towards green-certified projects and it is the responsibility of all sub-contractors, like Normac Kitchens, to produce high quality products that help to reach the industry's green-certification goals. The adoption and implementation of toxics reduction and pollution prevention methodologies will certainly lead to increased opportunities.

The greatest reduction has been achieved in the amount of lacquer thinner used during painting and finishing. This has resulted in a 30 per cent reduction over one year in the amount of toluene purchased. These reductions were made possible by: increasing the level of lacquer recycling,

better management of the application of recycled material, and by maintaining the seals on storage containers.

The implementation of these reduction strategies coupled with additional training and the use of high efficiency spray guns has resulted in considerable reductions in the use of toluene and xylene by approximately 15 per cent. Further, these enhancements have made paint booth clean-up and tool maintenance less onerous. Overall, these changes represent significant cost savings for the company.

*“Normac Kitchens is committed to taking on a leadership role in the promotion of environmental stewardship through innovation. The environment is everyone’s concern and it is only through broad-based collaboration that society can move toward an environmentally sustainable future. This commitment to sustainability is visibly apparent in the enthusiastic effort put forth by our employees.” ~ Alfonso Mendez, Plant Manager*

