



# Simply Green

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\*Sources– Marc Anderson: Environmental Health & Safety Director, Craig Beau-doin: Pratt Industries General Manager, Michael O’Regan: Director of PR Pratt Industries

## Pratt Industries: Innovator in Recycling & Environmental Protection



The original plant recycles a full semi load of waste trim daily or 14,388,000 lbs. of trim & office paper yearly!



100 % recycled roll of paper to be made into boxes weighing 3.5 tons and saving 59.5 trees from being cut down (at new plant).



Paper fiber recovery from a machine connected to the plant’s air filtration system (new plant).



On site natural gas fill-ing station (new plant).

It is an interesting experience to tour the original Lewisburg Container plant (now under the umbrella of Pratt Industries”) and the new Pratt Industries Corrugating Plant adjoining it. The differences in the two plants go beyond the new plant having state of the art machinery. The up-graded plant reflects the on-going commitment of Pratt Industries to promoting recycling and environmental protection. Pratt invested \$45 million in the new plant which uses paper that has been pulled from the urban waste stream instead of cutting down virgin forests for pulp. But before we look further at the many eco-friendly advances incorporated at the new plant, let’s familiarize ourselves with the history and the strides in manufacturing and recycling at the original plant.

The Original Lewisburg Container Plant- Lewisburg Container has been around since the middle 1950’s. It started as a business that dealt in wooden containers and eventually moved to producing corrugated shipping boxes. The average order is comprised of about 750 boxes of varied sizes as opposed to the new plant which produces orders of about 30,000 boxes (usually of the same size specifications in an order). The original plant also produces corrugated box display models for companies such as Mikesells Potato Chips and

Delta Faucets. Both the original plant and the new Pratt plant produce their boxes from 100% recycled paper fibers obtained from paper trash from offices as far away as Manhattan, New York and curbside recycling programs in Shreveport, Louisiana. Pratt Industries has its own recycling division which collects these recyclables and sends them to Pratt owned paper mills throughout the United States (the newest of which will be built in Valparaiso, Indiana pulling much of the paper to be recycled in the future from Ohio). Pratt also owns 13 MRFs (material recovery facilities) that not only recover the paper that Pratt uses in its manufacturing facilities but also recycles everything else they can such as metals, plastics, glass, etc. Pratt does another remarkable thing to promote recycling in the United States as well. They help to set up the recycling programs in other businesses and assist in making those recycling programs more efficient.

You will see some older equipment at the original plant, one machine which prints and die cuts boxes is from the 1950’s and is still in operation. However, waste is kept at a minimum throughout the whole plant. A system of pipes transports waste trimmings from box die cutting machines to

a baler for transporting back to Pratt’s paper mill. This usually amounts to a whole semi full of materials per day! 5 gallon ink buckets are being recycled. The plastic green banding used to hold the corrugated box sheets that the original plant uses to print on and die cut to make boxes is baled and recycled. They try not to use the waste or “garbage” compactor at the plant, recycling whenever and wherever they can on the floor. They recycle empty toner cartridges, and all the plastic bottles and glass they can plant-wide as well. Recyclable florescent light bulbs were put in the plant for lighting. Finally, since the original plant has been around longer than the new plant, they are able to use their experience to give tours to schoolchildren as part of their recycling outreach. Last year 600 Preble County students toured the plant to learn about advances in paper/box manufacturing as well as best available recycling and environmental protection practices. The original Lewisburg Container plant did give paper making and recycling presentations as well as passed out saplings to students to plant during Earth Day 2013. In 2014, Pratt gave presentations again at Earth Day and passed out saplings to Preble County 5th graders. (Continued on back...)



Preble County Solid Waste District  
4499 US Rt. 127 South  
Eaton, Ohio 45320  
937-456-6880  
**Website:**  
[www.preblecountyrecycles.org](http://www.preblecountyrecycles.org)  
Assistant Director: Beth Wright

Pratt Industries Fast Facts (US wide) daily:

- They save 51,000 trees from being cut or about 40 football fields of trees!
- They save 21 million gallons of water, enough to fill the world's largest aquarium 2 1/2 times!
- They divert 9,900 cubic tons of waste from landfills, enough to fill 248 garbage trucks!

## Pratt Industries: Innovator in Recycling & Environmental Protection (continued)

The New Pratt Plant:

At the new plant, sheets from huge rolls of 100% recycled paper weighing 3 1/2 tons each and long enough to cover 5 miles are glued together with a natural cornstarch mixture to form corrugated box printing sheets that are die cut and printed in the original plant next door. A state of the art conveyor system transports the sheets to the original plant eliminating the need to truck the sheets to the original plant next door. By eliminating the need to load and transport the sheets, the new plant saves the energy and fuel that would be needed by the equivalent of 30 semi trucks per day. In this plant as in the original plant, a pipe system transports scrap trimmings to a

baler and then they are sent back to one of Pratt's paper mills for recycling. And as is the case with the original plant, not only is paper recycled but metals, plastics and glass are also recycled from the floor and from employee break rooms.

One of the most interesting aspects of the plant is that they have a machine that is connected to the air filtration system that produces hockey puck sized pieces of material which is essentially the dust in the air containing paper fibers from various die cutting processes used. The factory then supplies other companies with this material which they will use to burn for more eco-efficient power and heating than traditional sources could provide.

Water is an important resource that the new plant saves daily. The plant has a zero discharge waste water corrugator machine which continually reuses the water that is used to make the corrugated box sheets.

The new Pratt plant uses natural gas to run its forklifts and trucks which is cleaner burning than regular gas and is more cost efficient. And because the natural gas burns so clean, the equipment often requires less oil changes and maintenance as a result.

Because the plant employs the best available technologies in its production, waste can be reduced considerably and production

errors are greatly reduced. Pratt is an inspiration to other companies to invest in upgrading their production technologies to conserve resources. Pratt recycles everything possible and they often produce an entire semi load of recyclables per day which they send to regional MRFs.

The mindset of recycling is so strong at Pratt that the employees use company supplied refillable water bottles on the job, no disposable plastic water drinking bottles are allowed on the floor.

Pratt Industries recycles on a large scale but everyone can do little things to help conserve Earth's natural resources (see below).

Company website:  
[www.prattindustries.com](http://www.prattindustries.com)

## Eight Easy Ways to Recycle at Home:

1. Reduce waste: Save 200 gallons of water monthly by turning off water while brushing teeth, turn off lights when leaving a room, use both sides of the paper when printing/copying, walk/bike instead of driving, take short showers, drink tap water instead of bottled, remove unnecessary items from cars to reduce weight/save gas, replace your HVAC unit filter often, install faucet aerators, cold water wash your clothes, stop junk mail, buy a programmable thermostat.
2. Unplug unused electronics. 25% of the electricity used to power home electronics is sapped while they are off. Use power strips to use electronics as needed or unplug them when not in use.
3. Recycle. Recycle using curbside collections or public bins. You can call the Solid Waste Office (contact information above) for a list of all public drop-off recycling location sites. Did you know that if you recycled just one spaghetti sauce jar you will have saved enough energy to power your television for 4 hours!
4. Look for the Energy Star label if buying a new home appliance, electronics, windows, or roofing. In 2006 Energy Star products helped US consumers save \$14 billion annually on their energy bills.
5. Use Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) which use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer saving an average of \$30 over the lifetime of each bulb.
6. Fix leaks. A faucet that leaks one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year and a leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water daily!
7. Buy recycled. Look for the words "post-consumer" or "recycled" when shopping for printing paper, notebooks, paper towels, trash bags, etc. Try to get as close to 100 % recycled content as you can!
8. Put computers on sleep mode at night to save electric.