

Operation Clean Sweep

Each industry sector: resin producers, transporters, bulk terminal operators, plastics processors, has a role to play in eliminating resin pellet, flake, and powder loss.

Why Strive for Zero Pellet, Flake, and Powder Loss?



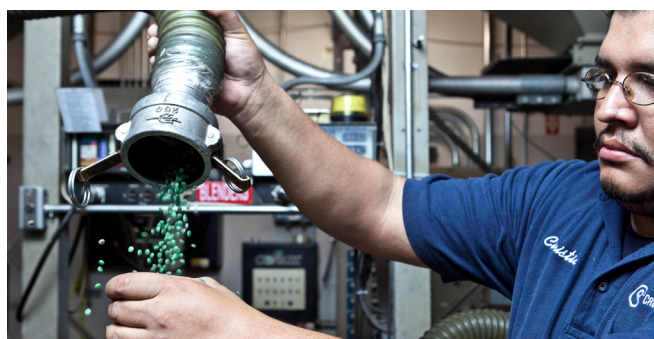
It's good for the environment

Researchers have reported that seabirds, turtles and fish ingest a wide variety of plastic items, including pellets, flakes, and powder. These materials can affect the animals' ability to breathe, swallow, or digest foods properly. When pellets, flakes, and powder are accidentally eaten by wildlife, they can block their digestive tracts, which could lead to malnutrition or even starvation.



It's the law

Violations of storm water regulations in states like California can result in civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per incident (California Water Code § 13385). Any person discharging unauthorized waste could be found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony and subject to additional criminal penalties (Water Code § 13256 and 13387).



It promotes safety and saves costs

Loose pellets, flakes, and powders can cause workers to slip and fall. While industry is committed to safety, slips and falls are a major portion of plastics industry accidents and can mean lost work time, higher worker compensation costs and lower employee morale. Reducing the risk of falls due to uncontained pellets, flakes, and powder is a better option for both our employees and our companies. Pellets, flakes, and powders are valuable. Uncontained resin pellets, flakes, and powder are not only detrimental to the environment, they are detrimental to your bottom line. Save costs by containing those valuable materials.



Operation Clean Sweep Can Help

Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) is a program designed to help every plastic resin handling operation implement good housekeeping and pellet, flake, and powder containment practices to work towards achieving zero pellet, flake, and powder loss. Administered by the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), OCS helps companies towards achieving zero pellet, flake, and powder loss. It has been implemented in thousands of plants around the world, all adding to the effort to protect the environment.



How Does it Work?

STEP 1:

COMMIT TO MAKING ZERO PELLET LOSS A PRIORITY

- 🕒 Sign the “Pledge to Prevent Resin Pellet Loss.”

STEP 2:

ASSESS YOUR COMPANY’S SITUATION AND NEEDS

- 🕒 Conduct a site audit to evaluate compliance with applicable laws and regulations that address pellet containment.
- 🕒 Determine if your company has appropriate facilities and equipment.
- 🕒 Determine if employees have training and are following appropriate procedures.
- 🕒 Identify potential problem areas and develop new procedures to address any needs.
- 🕒 Communicate your experiences to peers in the industry.

STEP 3:

MAKE NECESSARY UPGRADES IN FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AS APPROPRIATE

- 🕒 Assess and install containment systems.
- 🕒 Ensure that employees have ready access to cleanup equipment.

STEP 4:

RAISE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS AND CREATE ACCOUNTABILITY

- 🕒 Establish written procedures (OCS procedures and checklists may be modified to suit your needs).
- 🕒 Identify any necessary training to ensure procedures are followed.
- 🕒 Conduct regular employee training and awareness campaigns on OCS.
- 🕒 Encourage each worker to sign the employee commitment pledge.
- 🕒 Solicit employee feedback on your program.
- 🕒 Use workplace reminders such as stickers, posters, etc.

STEP 5:

FOLLOW UP AND ENFORCE PROCEDURES

- 🕒 Conduct routine inspections of the facility grounds – production areas and parking lots, drainage areas, driveways, etc.
- 🕒 Continuously look for ways to improve the program. Share best practices through the OCS website.

For further information and links to documents pertaining to OCS, visit www.opcleansweep.org