



MEC ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

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Grease Gators at Mossville—Environmentally friendly parts cleaning!

Did you know that Mossville has over **30 individual parts washers throughout Buildings BB and DD**? Each of these parts washers uses a solvent-based material to clean oily or greasy parts. However, there is an alternative to solvent-based cleaner that is less expensive, faster, and better for the environment: [the Grease Gator!](#)

The Grease Gator is a water-based parts washer system that was invented by University of Illinois researchers and Steve Rundell, president of Solvent Systems International in Elk Grove Village, IL. The system has been so successful that it was recognized with a **2005 Chicago Innovation Award**.



Steve Rundell uses the oil spigot on the side of the Grease Gator.

So how is it better for the environment? Basically, the system uses a water-based cleaner and a device that separates out oil from the solution. This helps keep the solution clean, saving on replacement chemical costs. It also allows the oil to be collected separately and recycled. The cleaner can then be used again and again, like in a closed loop system, which saves both money and raw material usage. Also, the cleaner poses fewer environmental risks. Disposal is much easier—currently the parts washer solvent is considered a “special waste,” meaning that it must be manifested and is subject to regulations of the Department of Transportation (DOT). It also means that we must pay for it to be recycled, incurring additional costs besides chemical replacement. The water-based solvent of the Grease Gator not only will have lower usage due to the closed loop system, but also will not need to go off-site for disposal.

The Grease Gator has already been piloted in a few locations at MEC, with great results! Look for more of them to come to your area—and get ready for a better way to do parts washers!

If you have questions about the Grease Gator, please contact Brad Stevenson at x81786.

Last month's Trivia Question Answers and Winner!

Answers:

- (A) Recycling one aluminum can provides energy to run a television for 3 hours.**
- (D) MEC recycles glass bottles, ink jet cartridges, and grinding wheels!**

And the winner of the \$25 gift certificate to the Diesel Depot is... **Deepak Thakkar!**

**Congratulations to Deepak, and thanks to all who participated in February's Trivia Questions!
Good luck with this month's Trivia!**

Recycling Trivia for March!

Answer these questions correctly and you'll be eligible to receive a prize at the end of the month— a \$25 gift certificate to the Safety Store! Answers may be submitted to drop-off boxes located in the BB/DD lobbies or VV ATM area. Hint— Look for answers on the Environmental Portal (link below!)

- Americans make up 5% of the world's population, but we consume ___% of its resources.
a. 5% b. 10% c. 25% d. 50%
- Recycling reduces ____.
a. Energy usage
b. Greenhouse gas emissions
c. Natural resource consumption
d. All of the above



Questions? Visit <https://largepower.cat.com/environmental> for more information.