Reusable Shop Towels: Green Cause Delivers Green Effects

Reusables are greener than disposables . . .

Your Green Cause: You purchase green supplies engineered and manufactured with high efficiency. Then you use them conservatively.

Improving your bottom line

Your Green Effects: Using these supplies enhances profitability because they are inherently more efficient (less expensive) and you use only what you need to get your work done, eliminating waste.

Ask your local textile services operator about regular pickup and delivery to optimize your inventory and storage.
Green Cause #1: Saving Energy  
62% less primary energy demand  
Reusable shop towels need dramatically fewer fossil (non-renewable) resources  
81% less crude oil  
In addition energy, crude oil is used for plastics, synthetic materials and soap/chemical products. Eliminating disposable industrial wipers would meet those annual product needs for at least 24,000 people  
17% less coal  
Enough to power at least 450 homes with such complete substitution of reusables  
4% less natural gas  
Enough to heat at least 750 homes or power 460 homes.

Green Cause #2: Improving Air Quality  
59% less smog  
Less discharges that foster nitrogen oxides under the influence of UV light to produce low-level smog  
89% less carbon monoxide  
Every reusable substituted for a disposable saves 16 cigarettes’ worth of carbon monoxide  
57% less carbon dioxide  
Substituting reusable shop towels for 10 disposables saves the equivalent of 1 mile’s worth of carbon dioxide from an auto tailpipe.

Green Cause #3: Reducing Waste 
76% less packaging waste  
For a wiping task that you’d need one disposable to complete, if you use a reusable shop towel that you received in a tied bundle instead, this lack of packaging limits waste disposal  
69% less total solid waste  
For a task you’d need three disposables for, substituting a reusable saves not only packaging but all the additional waste associated with the manufacturing and use of the disposables  
62% less total solid waste  
For a task you’d need two disposables for, substituting a reusable saves almost as much towel waste.

Green Effect #1: Decreasing Overall Costs  
83% less $  
A single reusable can handle 10 light-soil wiping tasks before washing it, providing enormous savings compared with using one disposable (total of 10) for each such task.  
66% less $  
For five (heavy soil) tasks that one reusable handles  
44% less $  
For three tasks (heavier) that one reusable handles  
15% less $  
For two tasks (heaviest) that one reusable handles

Green Effect #2: Controlling Disposal Expenses  
$2.50 savings in dumpster costs per disposable roll  
Reusables free disposal space; total savings depends on size, packing efficiency of dumpster, disposal rate  
$2.20 savings in custodian labor per roll  
Based on wage of $12 per hour  
$.40 savings in plastic bags per roll  
Based on 8 bags per cubic yard of waste, $.20 per bag.

Green Effect #3: Delivering Better Value  
Avoid 5%–10% waste factor  
Disposables tend to be used for purposes other than intended, subjecting them to theft and abuse. Paper product manufacturers and distributors acknowledge this in marketing  
Improve safety  
Paper towels soiled with potentially flammable or otherwise harmful fluids can remain on worksites longer than reusable towels picked up each week by a launderer  
Save time  
Worker productivity decreases due to disposables’ inferior absorbency and the need to use more than one for a wiping task.

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