



Massachusetts  
Department  
of  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

# fact sheet

## 2005 Toxics Use Reduction Information Release

Each year, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issues an annual report on the use of toxic chemicals in Massachusetts as reported under the Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA).

TURA progress is measured by using reported data (excluding trade secret data) normalized for changes in production and using a consistent set of chemicals and industries subject to reporting over a given period of time (referred to as a "Core Group").

### 2000 Core Group

The total amount of toxic chemicals reported used in 2005 (excluding trade secret data) was 887 million pounds. Of this total, the 2000 Core Group (industry categories and chemicals subject to reporting in 2000 and 2005) used 795 million pounds, or 90% of the toxic chemicals reported used.

Adjusting the data to account for a 15% decrease in production from 2000 to 2005, over that five-year period, the 2000 Core Group facilities:

- Reduced toxic chemical use by 9%
- Reduced toxic byproducts by 22%
- Increased toxics shipped in product by 2%
- Reduced on-site releases of toxics to the environment by 29%
- Reduced transfers of toxics off-site for further waste management by 32%

### 1990 Core Group

The 1990 Core Group (industry categories and chemicals subject to reporting in 1990 and 2005) used 491 million pounds in 2005, or 55% of the toxic chemicals reported used that year.

Adjusting the data to account for a 9% increase in production from 1990 to 2005, over that 15-year period the 1990 Core Group facilities reduced:

- Toxic chemical use by 40%
- Toxic byproducts by 71%
- Toxics shipped in product by 41%
- On-site releases of toxics to the environment by 91%
- Transfers of toxics off-site for further waste management by 60%

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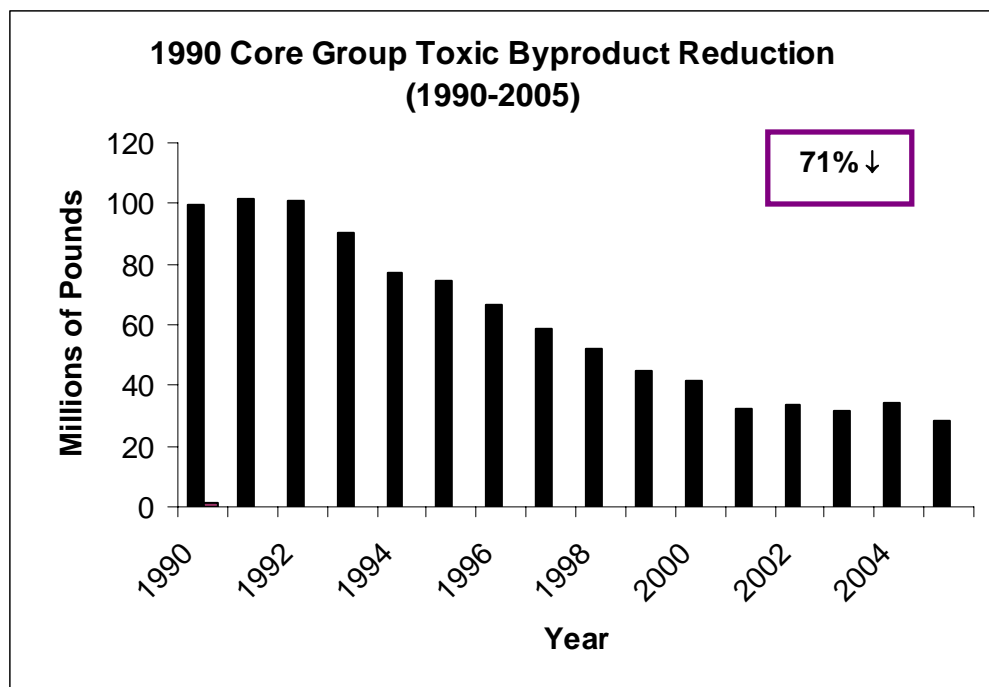
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### Total Toxic Chemical Use

A total of 615 facilities reported under TURA in 2005. They used 179 listed toxic substances at or above reporting thresholds. Including trade secret data, these facilities reported:

- 1.1 billion pounds of toxic substances used (the same as in 2004)
- 94 million pounds of toxic byproduct (or waste) generated (down from 111 million pounds in 2004)
- 410 million pounds of toxics shipped in or as products (up from 371 million pounds in 2004)
- 9 million pounds of toxics released to the environment (the same as 9 million pounds in 2004)
- 32 million pounds of toxics transferred off-site for further waste management (down from 35 million pounds in 2004)

TURA defines three types of toxics use: manufacturing (i.e., producing a toxic), processing (i.e., incorporating a toxic into a product), and “otherwise use” (i.e., all other uses).

The reported data show that little chemical manufacturing occurred in Massachusetts in 2005 (only 9% of total use).

Most of the reported chemicals used (about 73%) were processed or incorporated into a product (such as plastics, paints, automotive parts, etc.).

About 18% of chemical use was “otherwise use” attributed to uses ancillary to production processes, such as parts cleaning and waste treatment.

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## Planning Requirements

TURA requires reporting facilities to develop toxics use reduction (TUR) plans that identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce the use of toxics and the generation of toxic byproducts. These plans must be updated every two years and approved by a state-certified toxics use reduction planner.

Facilities that have completed a TUR plan and two plan updates also may elect to implement an Environmental Management System or develop a Resource Conservation Plan instead of a TUR plan, subject to certain conditions.

To learn more about TURA planning options, see  
[www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/tura/planning.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/tura/planning.htm).

## Program Administration

In addition to MassDEP administering its reporting and planning requirements, the TURA program is supported by two other organizations:

- [The Office of Technical Assistance and Technology](#) (OTA) provides non-regulatory technical assistance to facilities seeking to reduce the use of toxics, develops fact sheets and other technical guidance documents, supports the development of technology solutions by leveraging state and federal funding, and creates market-based incentives for qualifying TURA filers.
- [The Toxics Use Reduction Institute](#) (TURI), on the campus of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, TURI provides toxics use reduction education, training, and library services; supports research on cleaner materials and processes; and operates a laboratory for testing non-toxic or less-toxic cleaning alternatives.

The 2005 Toxics Use Reduction Information Release contains important chemical information from larger regulated industrial sources that is useful to the public, government, and industry. However, it is important to note that this information does not present the whole picture of chemical use in society, including emissions from cars and trucks, pesticides and fertilizers, and consumer use of products containing toxic chemicals.

## Additional Information

- The MassDEP 2005 Toxics Use Reduction Information Release is available at [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep).
- TURI also makes TURA data available on its web site in a user-friendly way that is searchable by community, chemical, or company. See [www.turi.org/turadata](http://www.turi.org/turadata).
- For further information, please visit the web sites listed here, or call the MassDEP TURA program at 617-292-5711.