

Pollution Prevention in Schools Project

Chemical Management Policy

Follow Up Questionnaire Results



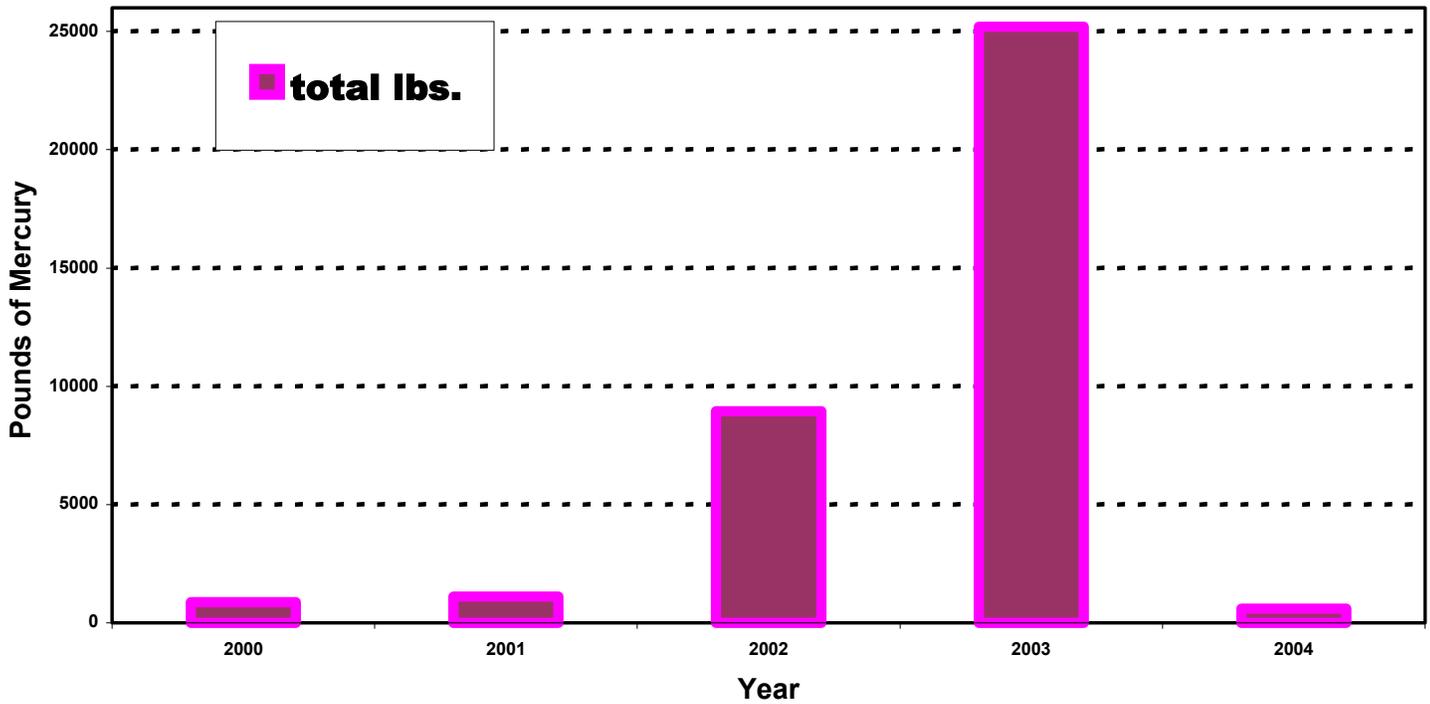
In spring 2004, a *Follow Up Questionnaire* was sent to 13 schools that have voluntarily adopted a School Chemical Management Policy. Based on the responses, these New Hampshire schools are providing increased protection for their faculty, staff, and students as a result of their adoption of their policy.

The following are the results of the questionnaire.

1. As part of their Chemical Management Policy, schools are monitoring the quantities of chemicals they are purchasing and storing and minimizing the amount of chemicals they use by:
 - Implementing a “just in time” ordering plan.
 - Utilizing microscale experiments, which use fewer chemicals and produce less waste.
 - Cleaning out old or unused chemicals and storing useable chemicals correctly in a convenient place.
2. Storage of chemicals by the schools has improved as a result of their adoption of a Chemical Management Policy. Some surveyed schools:
 - Store chemicals according to compatibility (preferred method).
 - Routinely update their chemical inventory.
 - Place all hazardous chemicals in lockers, which are accessible only to staff.
3. All schools that responded to the follow up questionnaire:
 - Train appropriate staff in handling and managing hazardous waste and chemicals. Some schools provide the training yearly.
 - File or post the materials safety and data sheets (MSDS) for the chemicals contained/purchased in their schools.
 - Have removed all mercury containing compounds and devices from their schools. Total mercury removed from surveyed schools equals **618 pounds!** (See graph below.)

Since the New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program's initial outreach efforts to schools in 1999, the amount of mercury being removed from New Hampshire schools has increased dramatically. Note, while the 2004 figures are noticeably lower than 2003, the data only represents January-April 2004.

**Mercury Disposed from N.H. Schools
January 2000 to April 2004**



The upward trend in pounds of mercury removed is promising. The large spike in 2003 is due primarily to the one time removal of a rubber gymnasium floor containing mercury.