

*For IMMEDIATE Release*

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Flexible Foam Products

## **State of Indiana Honors Flexible Foam Products with “Excellence In Pollution Prevention” Award**

*Elkhart, IN* – Flexible Foam Products, a member of the Ohio Dec family of companies, received the State of Indiana’s “Governor’s Award for Excellence in Pollution Prevention” – the state’s highest achievement that recognizes a company’s efforts to develop and implement safer, healthier, more environmentally-friendly manufacturing processes.

Flexible Foam reduced the amount of methylene chloride released into the air by 700,000 pounds, according to Jerry Eagon, general manager of the Elkhart, Indiana facility. Reductions of equal significance were implemented in all eight of the company’s foam manufacturing plants throughout the continental United States.

“That’s a huge, huge number,” explains Courtney Sanderson of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). “They’re going above and beyond what our permits require to make Indiana a cleaner place.”

Methylene chloride is used to “blow apart” the foam, creating the tiny air pockets that make foam soft. Methylene chloride, while harmless once emitted into the air, is toxic in its raw form. Flexible Foam implemented new technology that uses recycled carbon dioxide. Ohio Dec completed the transition to the new technology in 1995, after purchasing the required equipment from the engineering and manufacturing source in Deuseldorf, Germany. The company invested approximately \$12 million to convert to the carbon dioxide process in all eight of its foam manufacturing sites. As of October 1, 2001, all foam companies are required to be methylene-free or face fines for using the chemical.

“We are honored to receive such recognition,” said Lewie Moeller, president and CEO of Ohio Dec Plastics Group. “We are constantly striving to improve the manner and quality of our products, and this solution achieves both of these goals.”

IDEM sponsors the award as a part of the state agency’s Partners for Pollution Prevention (P4P2) program. P4P2 is an association of industry, government, academic, and environmental organizations whose mission is to advance pollution prevention in Indiana. The awards program is structured to recognize and reward Indiana facilities that have implemented pollution prevention into their operations and decision-making processes.

Flexible Foam Products is a division of Ohio Dec Plastics Group, an Ohio-based family of companies with locations throughout North America in the foam, flooring, automotive, and metals industries.

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