

# Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



JTEKT Automotive Tennessee-Vonore Co.  
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## Performer Recycles Oil Absorbents

### The Member

JTEKT Automotive Tennessee-Vonore Co. (formerly Tennessee Koyo) has been in operation in Vonore, TN since 1989. The 375,000 sq. ft. facility employs 780 associates and is located on property adjoining Tellico Lake. JTEKT produces over 8,600 rack and pinion steering systems and 10,800 high-pressure hose assemblies per day for original equipment vehicle manufacturers. JTEKT is a member of the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership at the Performer level. JTEKT is also a member of Monroe County Beautiful, Loudon County Beautiful and the Tennessee Recycling Coalition. In addition, JTEKT is ISO 14001:2004 certified and has a very positive attitude toward environmental management and protecting the environment. JTEKT is committed to reducing and/or eliminating waste to landfills by investigating and categorizing all waste materials generated at the facility.

### The Story - Recyclable Oil Absorbents

JTEKTs' manufacturing process involves the use of various oils and coolants for machining and hydraulic operations. As with many manufacturing facilities, our equipment occasionally has oil and coolant spills, and/or leaks within the facility. In the past, we have used non-recyclable oil absorbent mats to help in clean up of the smaller spills and leaks. Once these mats are spent they were disposed of by throwing them into the general trash that ended up in the McMinn County landfill.

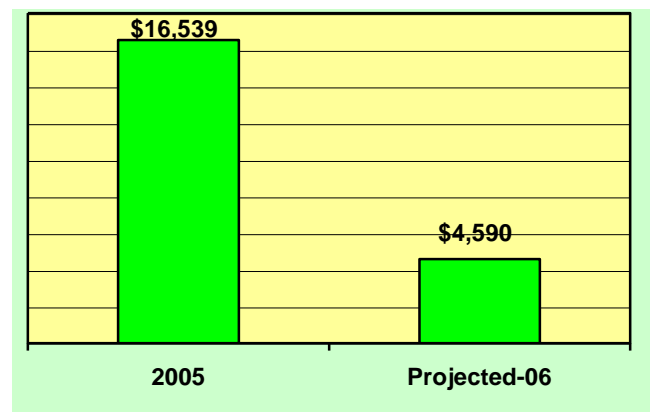
### New Idea

The idea was to find an alternative oil absorbent that could be recycled. In October 2005, the non-recyclable mat purchase was discontinued and a partnership was

created with a vendor that would supply JTEKT with recyclable oil absorbent mats.

### The Success

Now recyclable mats are used, collected, and shipped off weekly to a vendor that reclaims the oil/coolant and returns the mats back to JTEKT laundered and ready for reuse. This improvement change has reduced JTEKT's annual cost from \$16,539 to \$4,590 (Annual cost savings **\$11,949**).



### Pollution Prevented

This environmental improvement activity will reduce JTEKT's annual landfill disposal by **19,255** pounds or **10** tons.

### Future Activities

Through monthly environmental audits and increased employee awareness, the recyclable oil absorbent mat project is continually being improved. JTEKT will continue looking for opportunities that can reduce and/or eliminate all waste streams going to the land fill.

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