

# Safely recycling rinsate water — saving both H<sub>2</sub>O and money

By MARK LESLIE

NAPLES, Fla. — So, you want to save water ... paper ... time? You want a hygienic, safe equipment and hand wash station? Check out Collier's Reserve's Integrated Plant Management (IPM) control center here.

Stressing that "this is not the way, but another way to do things," golf course manager Tim Hiers credited Oklahoma State Extension Service agricultural engineer Ronald T. Noyes with originating the idea for Collier's Reserve's rinsate system. He said a government regulator had the idea to use top dressing to clean up hazardous waste spills.

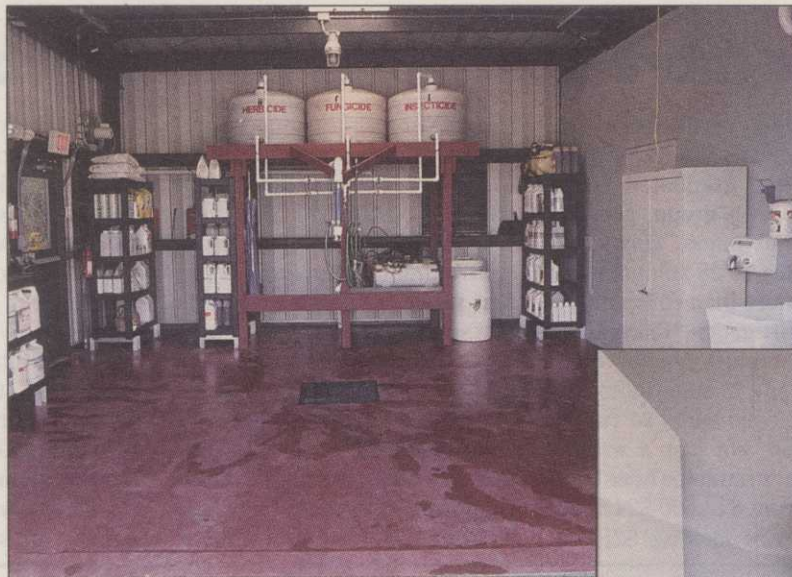
From soap to spills to hot-air blowers, here is a rundown on this corner of Collier's Reserve's IPM control facility, at which recycling has become a way of life.

- Water from pesticide rinsate and the hand sink drains into a sump and is pumped into one of three 100-gallon holding tanks in the building, depending on whether it is herbicide, fungicide, or insecticide rinsate. A lever controls a valve on the sump that sends the water to the correct tank.

The next time the crew sprays a pesticide, it uses water from the correct holding tank as the carrier. "The [pesticide] residue is so infinitesimal..." Hiers said, "we've never had a problem, or heard of anyone having a problem [mixing in other pesticides]."

It takes three or four months to fill the fungicide and insecticide tanks, said Collier's Reserve IPM specialist Mike Litton. The herbicide tank "gets filled pretty regularly, about once a month," he said, "because we rinse out our 15-gallon sprayers. We basically use non-selective herbicides only on our landscape mulch beds."

- Flanking the sink are five-gallon buckets containing top dressing, to be used to absorb any pesticide spill ("I've had one in 20 years, when a hose broke," Hiers said.). Typically, a hazmat cloth is used to wipe up a spill, thus creating a hazardous waste.



Collier's Reserve crews save rinsate by pumping it into storage tanks, above, and even from the wash station, right.

"Take the top dressing," Hiers said, "apply it to the spilled pesticide, then apply the top dressing on a target area on the golf course, trying to follow the label rate (Basically, you'll spread it on the turf and let the microbes do the rest.)."

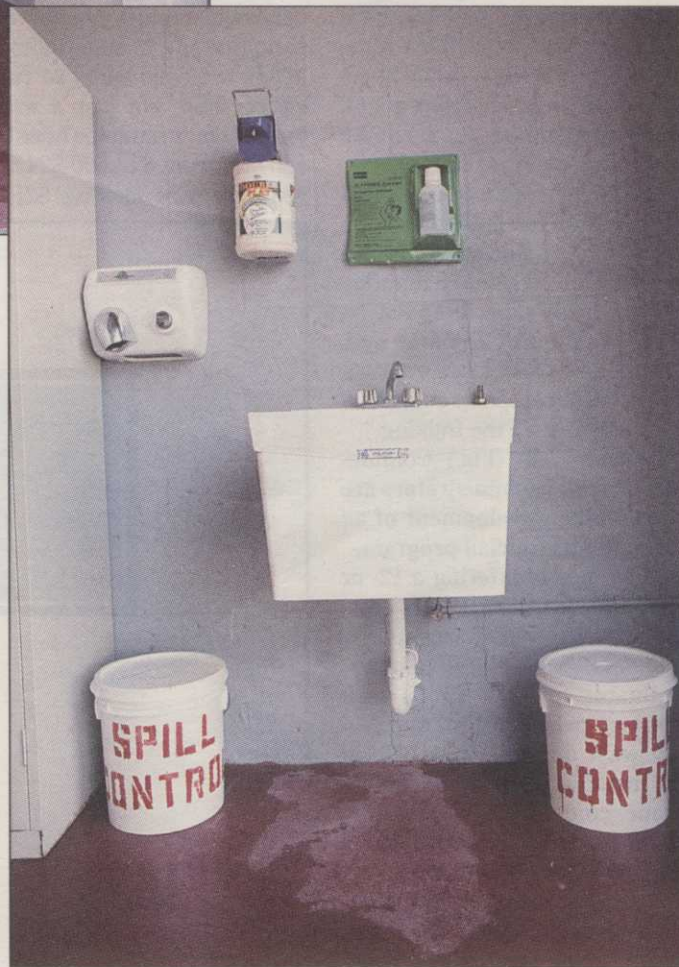
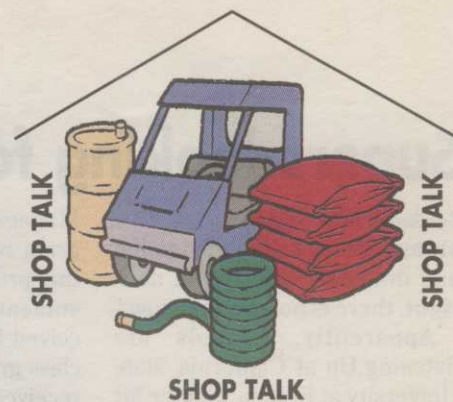
- Replacing hand towels, the hot-air blower saves paper — and more. "Technically, you can be wiping your hand with a pesticide and maybe creating a hazardous waste. We don't have to worry about that. With the blower you don't create anything, plus this is better for hygiene," Hiers said.

- The soap dispenser contains an industrial cleaner with recycled plastic particles in it. Recycled plastic particles? Uh-huh.

The best function of Collier's wash station, Litton said, is that "it is a continuous recycling process... It makes sure you don't have illegal rinsate floating around... and we're not wasting anything."

Most appreciated about the system is that it is totally contained, Litton said. "There is no way — save for a tornado or hurricane, maybe — that any [spill] will leave this building. If you have a problem, it will stay right there. It is peace of mind."

Litton said having the irrigation water and holding tanks in the building saves time. "I can pull the sprayer straight into the building and ... be up and going in less than five minutes," he said.



Ed.: Superintendents, their grounds crews and mechanics spend a major portion of their lives in their maintenance buildings. Creating the most cost-effective, space-efficient and time-saving operation possible is a goal of many. To that end we use this space to share ideas that are passed along to us. We welcome your contributions. Just write: ShopTalk editor, Golf Course News, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine 04096; telephone 207-846-0600; or fax 207-846-2292.



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