

# INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

THE GREEN INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE



## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RISES

Consumer confidence rose in September, according to The Conference Board. The index, which measures how Americans feel about the economy, rose to 70.3 from 61.3 in August. Confidence had declined in August. The reading came in well above the 63 reading that economists surveyed by **Briefing.com** expected, *CNN Money* reports.

## SAFE PARKING TIPS

Parking lot incidents are typically low-speed collisions, but they can lead to expensive repair bills. For fleets, parking lot crashes are some of the most common incidents.

Here are some tips for safe parking, provided by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS), which sponsors Drive Safely Work Week (Oct. 1-5, 2012). The tips and tools downloadable on [trafficsafety.org](http://trafficsafety.org) are useful for safety training year-round.



**BACK IN, NOT OUT.** Where legal and where parking spaces are not angled, fleet safety experts agree it's safest to back into or pull through a parking space so your vehicle is facing out when it's time to exit.

**GET THE FULL PICTURE.** Having your mirrors properly adjusted for the best possible view is important for all driving maneuvers, but it's particularly so for safely backing into a parking space.

**GET IT STRAIGHT.** Once you've backed in, before exiting the vehicle, turn the wheel to straighten your tires so they are ready for you to drive out safely.

**APPROACH SLOWLY.** When pulling through to a parking space, particularly if there is an SUV or van on either or both sides, go slowly and be alert for other drivers coming from the opposite side that may not see you and could be approaching the same spot.

**IF YOU MUST BACK OUT:** Complete a vehicle walk-around to check for children and other objects before backing out. Once all is clear, exit promptly and cautiously, as conditions may change. Some fleet programs require tapping the horn twice before backing to alert others.

**\$74.9  
BILLION**

Revenue forecast for the U.S. landscaping services industry in 2017, according to IBISWorld. Industry revenue is expected to grow 4.2 percent over 2012, largely driven by an increase in per capita disposable income and a 20.1 percent increase in housing starts. Revenue is forecast to rise about 4 percent per year for the next five years.

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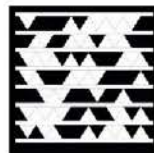
TIPS FOR SMARTER, SAFER  
CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS

By Lauren Wilson | FMC

As an applicator, some of the most important steps you can take to protect yourself and others after working with pesticides are also some of the simplest. Maintaining good personal hygiene helps ensure that family and friends won't come into contact with the powerful materials you use on the job. Be sure to wash your hands and bathe after handling, mixing or applying pesticides. Wash and store your work clothes separately from your regular laundry. Finally, wear clean work clothes and gloves whenever you're likely to come into contact with pesticides.



Lauren Wilson is the Technical Service Representative for FMC Professional Solutions.



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