

Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) **Bio-Remediation Parts Cleaner**

Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) is sometimes referred to as, Michigan Air National Guards “Gem of the North”. Its primary mission is to provide a year-round realistic training environment for various military units from around the United States.

Alpena CRTC’s commitment to environmentally friendly maintenance practices is reflected in the efforts of Senior Airman (SRA) Thomas Hauff. SRA Hauff is a mechanic at the base vehicle maintenance shop and also serves as the shop’s hazardous waste accumulation manager. In an effort to reduce waste, operational coast, and health/environmental hazards, SRA Hauff researched alternatives and found that bio-remediation could be used as an effective alternative to the solvent based parts cleaner in the maintenance shop.



Vehicle maintenance had been using a solvent based parts cleaner that was doing the job, but created a hazardous waste which was costly for removal/disposal of the waste byproduct (spent solvent). The old parts cleaner uses a solvent that contains a flammable petroleum distillate that is hazardous to human health and the environment.

Through researching various alternatives, SRA Hauff found a company that specializes in non-hazardous, bio-remediation based, cleaning systems. The parts cleaner reduces the release of VOC’s and eliminates liquid hazardous waste with the use of an aqueous degreasing solution called “Ozzy Juice”. Because of his efforts, SRA Hauff has cut the cost of cleaning parts and helped considerably in pollution prevention efforts.

ChemFree’s SmartWasher (reg. Trademark) costs around \$1,362.00 and about \$9.95 per month to operate. (replacement of filter mat). Ozzy Juice is added to the cleaning system on an as needed basis (dependent on frequency of use) and costs about \$65.00 per gallon container. More information about ChemFree’s products can be obtained by accessing their web page below.*

<http://www.chemfree.com/>

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