# **7 Elements of Waste**

# Use this sheet to brainstorm waste in a process and explore ways to address it.

# **Process: Making Novelty Baseball Bats**

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| **TYPE OF WASTE:** | | **INSTANCES & NEXT STEPS:** |
|  | **TRANSPORTATION**  The unnecessary movement of materials in a process. | In most cases, subsequent manufacturing steps are not next to each other, and so materials have to be moved around a lot. It was described as “a mouse trying to find cheese”. (You could also classify this as “motion.”) |
|  | **INVENTORY**  Raw materials that are not immediately used. | There are batteries in the warehouse that have gone unused for several years. |
|  | **MOTION**  The unnecessary movement of people in the process. | There is no loading dock, and so orders have to be carried out by humans and placed on delivery trucks. This could present a safety issue – especially during snowy Pennsylvania winters. (You could also classify this as “transportation.”) |
|  | **WAITING**  Waiting for the next step in the process. (Idle time.) | They are currently a seasonal business. (There are waiting periods between baseball seasons, and manufacturing equipment goes unused during that time.) |
|  | **OVERPRODUCTION**  Producing more finished goods than the customer demands. |  |
|  | **OVERPROCESSING**  Doing more work than the customer requires. (aka “Extra Processing”) | They do NOT need to paint the bats in-house. Customers don’t require it. By outsourcing the painting, they could save $0.10 per bat. |
|  | **DEFECTS**  Correcting defects in our products. (aka “Correction) | During the year, about $12,000 worth of materials were wasted because of mistakes – but that only included material costs and not labor costs or lost time. Also, there is no order tracking system, and so many orders are getting lost or cancelled. |