DTSC Hazardous Waste Management



A hazardous waste management handout for auto body shop appropriate for both employees and management.



Hazardous Waste Management

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Auto body shops typically generate several kinds of potentially hazardous waste, including waste solvent and coatings, contaminated rags, wipes, and absorbents, empty containers, used oil, waste antifreeze, sanding or grinding dusts, and contaminated wash waters. Some wastes clearly must be managed as hazardous, while others may require the owner or operator to make that determination. Following is a list of auto body shop wastes that are hazardous or may be hazardous.

Waste	Hazardous?	Why?
Solvents or mixed solvent-paint waste	Yes	Ignitable, toxic, listed
Solvent recycling still bottoms (pancake)	Yes	Toxic, listed
Used alkaline or acid cleaning solutions	Yes	Corrosive, possibly toxic
Lead-acid batteries	Yes	Corrosive, toxic
Used oil	Yes	California law requires that used oil be managed as a hazardous waste.
Wipes or rags	Maybe	Toxic, ignitable, depending on what you use to clean
Other cleaning solutions	Maybe	Toxic, corrosive
Coatings, including basecoats and primers and unused multi-component coatings (paint hardeners, retarders, catalysts)	Yes	Toxic (metals), ignitable Note: fully cured paint that remains in filters and disposable cups may not be hazardous, depending on the metals contained in the coating.
Sanding dusts	Maybe – assume hazardous OR test to prove otherwise.	Toxic (metals) DTSC testing has found that sanding dust, especially dust generated from sanding primers, is often hazardous because of metals content. However, dust from sanding filler (bondo) is usually non-hazardous. Manage sanding dust as a hazardous waste or conduct testing to prove that it is non-hazardous.
Used antifreeze	Yes	Toxic (metals, ethylene glycol)
Wash waters	Maybe	Toxic
Used containers (including paint mix cups)	Maybe	Toxic, ignitable, corrosive. Used containers are not hazardous if they meet the regulatory definition of "empty" (see discussion below).