



Shoptalk

A newsletter about dangerous waste and pollution prevention

Volume 20, No. 3, September 2010 – Publication Number 10-04-003

Save the Date! October 5-6, 2010

Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention (P2) Regional Roundtable: *Emerging Trends in Climate Change and Toxics Reduction – Tools for Business and Industry*, Clearwater Casino Resort, near Poulsbo, WA. For more information, visit PPRC 2010 Roundtable at <http://www.pprc.org/rrt2010/index.cfm>

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Department of Ecology

Your business is liable for all dangerous wastes you generate. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a dangerous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For more information on reducing or recycling dangerous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff at:

Bellevue: (425) 649-7000
Lacey: (360) 407-6300
Yakima: (509) 575-2490
Spokane: (509) 329-3400

To ask about available formats for the visually impaired please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

Shoptalk is produced by the Washington State Department of Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program.

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It's Hazardous Materials Round-up Time



Do you think anyone knows these are out there?

Change is the air. Leaves are yellowing, the mornings are cooler and crisper, and at home, we might be cleaning the gutters, lighting the pilot on the furnace, and putting up storm windows. This is also a great time for facility managers to round up those drums, containers, and other items before they become a problem.

“Bone yards,” junk piles, and storage rooms with infrequent traffic are the source of numerous problems during inspections. These areas become homes for unwanted and outdated products that employees forget about.

On almost every inspection, inspectors encounter forgotten and unmarked drums, containers, and other items. They are hiding behind the building, lurking underneath the blackberry bushes, stacked up against the fence line, or shoved into a corner. Sometimes they are empty, more often they are not, and almost always they cost your business time and money.

Think of drums and containers as inspector magnets. Our eyes gravitate toward them, and we want to know what is in them and where they are disposed. So take a moment to enjoy the changing of the season. Get out and walk around with your inspector eyes. Look around, do you see unmarked containers or drums? Do you and your employees know what are in the containers? If you don't, round them up and start figuring out what they are.



An empty tank that filled with rainwater. It will cost about \$500 to test for heavy metals.



Employees had forgotten about these drums "out back." Yes, there was waste in them.

If the containers are empty, move them to a designated “empty drum” area and store them on their side. This will prevent rainwater and other liquids from collecting in them. Empty containers rarely stay empty. They can fill up with rainwater costing your company hundreds of dollars in sampling just to make sure they contain only rainwater.

See “*Container Management*” at Regulatory Information and Assistance, (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/reg_comp_guide/pages/regs_hazwaste.html) to find out more about smart container management.

Toxic Metals Prevention Project

People use a variety of metals for many purposes – from lead in wheel weights to mercury in thermostats. But many metals are toxic to humans and the environment. Certain metals, such as lead, have no “safe” level of human exposure. Many metals, such as mercury, are also **persistent** (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/pbt/)– which means they accumulate in the environment and never go away.



Toxic metals can be found in many products, like these fluorescent bulbs and tubes with their small amount of mercury.

This is why the Department of Ecology and some of Washington’s larger businesses are cooperating in the “Toxic Metals Prevention project” to find safer alternatives to the toxic metals used. The voluntary project will focus first on **mercury** (www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury), **lead** (www.ecy.wa.gov/PROGRAMS/SWFA/pbt/lead.html), and **cadmium** (www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts5.html). It will continue through at least 2012. We will post the information learned from this project on our website as it becomes available. We are currently developing new web content about safer alternatives. Look for updates in *Shoptalk*.

There is increasing concern about the potential risk of toxics in products and consumers are choosing products with lower toxicity. It makes good business sense to use the safest materials available. Eliminating toxic metals can help businesses decrease their liability, save money on waste disposal, and give Washington businesses a competitive edge in a global economy. Making changes now can put businesses in a better position if there are new restrictions in the future. Ecology has no plans to ban these materials. Instead, we are encouraging safer alternatives.

Priority Toxic Metals

Metals	Effects on humans and the environment	Uses in WA	Opportunities for safer alternatives	Pounds of hazardous waste in WA in 2009
Mercury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBT (Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxin) • Reproductive toxicity • Developmental neurotoxicant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement devices • Mining • Medicines • Electronics • Switches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-mercury tilt switches, pressure sensors, and instruments • Non-mercury adhesives, paints, and sealants 	1,000,000
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBT (Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxin) • Carcinogen, mutagen, reproductive toxin • Developmental neurotoxicant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery manufacturing • Paints (including traffic paints) • Heat bath galvanizing • Ammunition • Electronics • Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-lead solder in electronics • Non-lead traffic paint • Steel wheel weights 	28,000,000
Cadmium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBT (Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxin) • Developmental toxin • Carcinogen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coatings and plating • Pigments • Adhesives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less toxic plating solutions • Non-cadmium pigments 	15,000,000

We are also evaluating and identifying safer alternatives for chromium, arsenic, beryllium, copper, and zinc. For more information about the Toxic Metals Prevention project, contact Tom Boucher at (360) 407-6462 or tbou461@ecy.wa.gov.

New Validation Feature for 2010 Online Annual Reporting

If you use the TurboWaste.Net computer program to file your **Dangerous Waste Annual Report** (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/waste-report/index.html), you may notice a change this year. The program has a new data validation feature for **Generation and Management (GM) forms** (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/waste-report/gm.htm). The new feature makes sure that Source Codes and Origin Codes for “recurrent” and “non-recurrent” waste streams do not conflict.

Source Codes and Origin Codes show where each waste comes from. Generally, waste from business or service processes is recurrent and waste from remediation or site cleanup is non-recurrent. For fees and waste planning, recurrent waste is counted separately from non-recurrent waste.

For more information, see the **Recurrent or Non-Recurrent Waste Reporting Changes webpage** (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/waste-report/recurrent-nonrecurrent-waste.html). The annual reporting website has a revised table showing which Source Codes go with which Origin Codes, **How to report Hazardous Waste as Recurrent or Non-Recurrent using the Source Codes and Origin Codes Crosswalk Table** (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/waste-report/Source_Codes.htm). Another website table has complete **Origin Code definitions** (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/waste-report/origin_codes.htm).

If you have questions, call toll-free 1-800-874-2022, or, if you are not in Washington State, call (360) 407-6170. Press “2” at the message to reach annual reporting staff.

Flood Season is Coming

It may still be summer as you read this, but you know the rains are coming. It’s a good time to review the precautions to take with your dangerous waste and materials before flood season. For a refresher, see **Be Ready for a Flood – Manage Your Hazardous Materials** (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/floods/index.html).

Does early preparation help? According to the people of Fargo, North Dakota, it sure does. The town and region faced some major flooding in the last two years. But the 2010 spring flood didn’t result in widespread environmental health problems. Experience and public education helped to prevent a repeat of 2009’s disaster. That year the flooding Red River spread fuel, chemicals from farms and businesses, and sewage around the area and into drinking water wells.



Wonder what was in these tanks when the 2008 flooding caught them?

Secure fuel tanks. Move chemicals out of harm’s way. Protect wellheads. These actions and more can keep a minor flood from becoming a major disaster for your business and neighbors.

But what about afterwards? How quickly could you be back in business after a flood or other disaster? The state’s Emergency Management Division has a webinar and a Business Resiliency Fact Sheet that can help you plan for this. See **Business Preparedness** (www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/business/prep_business_prepare.shtml#Webinar).

No Lead Wheel Weights Allowed After January 1

Washington banned the use of **lead wheel weights** (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/pbt/weights.html) beginning January 1, 2011. A new law, **RCW 70.270 Replacement of Lead Wheel Weights** (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70.270>), requires that a person who replaces or balances motor vehicle tires in Washington must use environmentally preferred wheel weights.



Worn down wheel weights found on Washington streets.

Ecology's research indicates that about 40 metric tons of lead wheel weights fall off vehicles every year in Washington. This exposes people to lead fragments and dust as traffic crushes and wears down the fallen weights. Lead wheel weights on and alongside roadways can contribute to soil, surface water, and groundwater contamination, and pose hazards to downstream aquatic life.

Environmentally preferred wheel weights are required at the time of tire replacement or repair for all vehicles with a wheel diameter of less than 19.5 inches or a gross vehicle weight of 14,000 pounds or less. Ecology encourages the use of non-lead wheel weights for larger tires as well.

An environmentally preferred wheel weight is a wheel weight that does not include more than 0.5 percent by weight of lead or any other chemical on Ecology's **PBT (Persistent, Bioaccumulative, Toxic)** list (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/pbt.html). This means that wheel weights must not contain substances like cadmium or mercury. There are a number of alternatives to lead wheel weights, including coated steel, composite, and zinc weights. They are readily available through normal distribution channels for auto parts.

All lead wheel weights are required to be recycled. If you are unsure of where to recycle lead wheel weights, visit the **1-800-RECYCLE** website (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/recycle/>) to find a location near you. For more information, contact Joshua Grice, Waste 2 Resources Program, at (360) 407-6786 or Joshua.grice@ecy.wa.gov.

Free Pesticide Disposal this Fall

The Washington Department of Agriculture is sponsoring free pesticide disposal events this fall – Vancouver on Sept. 14, Pasco on Sept. 28, and Spokane on Oct. 5.

The events will take insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and most chemicals that kill, repel, or prevent unwanted pests. To sign up, call (360) 902-2056, (877) 301-4555 (toll free) or send an e-mail to wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov.



For more information, visit the Department of Agriculture's website at agr.wa.gov and click on "Pesticides and Fertilizers."

Keep Up With Facility Changes on Public Notice List

Do you want to receive information on hazardous waste management and used oil facilities throughout Washington? We are updating our public notice e-mail list. Ecology uses this list to send public notices about permits for facilities that recycle, treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste or used oil. Notices can be about:

- Proposals to site a new facility.
- Draft or final decisions to issue or deny a permit.
- Requests to modify an existing permit.
- Decisions to approve or deny a permit modification.
- Plans to close a facility.



You can join the FREE electronic listserv at <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=DWFACILITIES-PUBLIC-NOTICE>. Be aware your e-mail address will be shared with other dangerous waste facilities that are required to send public notices on the same issues. If you wish to receive paper copies of notices, contact Nancy Farman, Public Involvement Coordinator, Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-0272 or nfar461@ecy.wa.gov.

New Lead-based Paint Rule for Contractors

Are you disturbing lead-based paint in pre-1978 housing, schools, or day care centers? If so, you must be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination, according to the new federal Renovation, Repair and Painting rule.

This Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule requires that any contractor doing renovation, repair, and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, childcare facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. For more information, see EPA's **Renovation, Repair and Painting** website (www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm).



Painters must be certified to work around lead paint, per federal requirements.

The work practices part of the rule is in effect now. EPA passed that in April 2008. The part of the rule setting the certification requirement deadline passed in April 2010. EPA is allowing more time for firms to get their certification and for workers to get their training. Firms must be certified by October 1, 2010. Workers have until September 30, 2010 to apply to enroll in or be enrolled in a certified renovator class. They must complete the training by December 31, 2010.

Only Rain Down the Drain

Ecology has launched a new poster and website, www.ecy.wa.gov/washington_waters/business.html, to remind workers to keep pollutants out of storm drains.

Most runoff going into storm drains goes directly into streams, rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound. It does not go to a wastewater treatment plant as sewage does. So anything dripped, spilled, or swept in or onto outside surfaces goes down the drain and into the water, too. *Only Rain Down the Drain* shows best practices to keep your business and our waters healthy.



This is NOT a best management practice.

The poster is part of Ecology's **Washington Waters: Ours to Protect** campaign (www.ecy.wa.gov/washington_waters/business.html). Request copies of the poster from Dave Zink, at (360) 407-6752, e-mail dzin461@ecy.wa.gov.

Streamlining Government Eliminates Interim Appeals Step

Last year the **Natural Resource Reform** (www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/reform/naturalresources.asp) initiative began streamlining the work of several agencies that deal with natural resource issues. A part of the effort addressed consolidating and streamlining the administrative appeals processes. One result is that the 2010 Legislature repealed the Application for Relief option for penalties, effective July 1, 2010.



Facilities used an Application for Relief when they believed there was an error in the information Ecology cited as the reason for a penalty under the **Dangerous Waste Rules** (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303>). Very few of these appeals succeeded, however, so the Legislature eliminated this intermediate step in the process. Appeals now go directly to the Pollution Control Hearings Board in the state's Environment and Land Use Hearings Office.

Some penalties are still subject to the Application for Relief option – penalties under the Shoreline Management Act, Orders of Reimbursement for spills, and those used by local air authorities.