



Shoptalk

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A quarterly publication for hazardous waste generators

Canyon Creek Cabinet Company Wins the Governor's Pollution Prevention Award

Canyon Creek Cabinet Company (Canyon Creek) is one of the largest kitchen and bath cabinet manufacturers in the Northwest. About 400 employees work in two shifts to produce attractive, top quality cabinets. What makes these cabinets exceptional is that the finish coatings are primarily water-based. Canyon Creek worked closely with experts from the Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, and their supplier AKZO Nobel Coatings, Inc., in developing a new water-based finishing system. Their system uses a combination of equipment technology and finish formulation to virtually eliminate hazardous air pollutants associated with

solvent-based finishing systems.

Canyon Creek has grown rapidly since 1991, tripling their production. As production increased, so did the amount of air pollution and hazardous waste from the solvent-based coatings that they were using. So, Canyon Creek took a careful look at their processes to identify the sources of the air pollution and waste. They discussed the problem with their supplier, AKZO Nobel, who began developing some new water-based finishes which were then tested by Canyon Creek.

The continued growth of the company meant that they needed a larger facility. This was their opportunity to put their good ideas into action, starting at the design phase. The

new facility was designed to house a complete finishing system using primarily water-based finishes. A series of drying ovens were installed to dry the cabinet components. Every detail was considered. For example, the ovens included a heat recovery unit used to heat water. John Earl, Canyon Creek's Regulatory Affairs Manager said, "Instead of waiting until the end of the process to figure out what to do with the waste, you need to start at the beginning and look at the process to figure out how to avoid generating the waste."

Canyon Creek applied for the 1999 Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention. Because of their innovation and impressive reductions in air pollution and hazardous waste generation, Canyon Creek Cabinet Company was selected unanimously by a panel of ten judges as a winner.

For more information about Canyon Creek's pollution prevention success, contact Ecology's Rob Reuter at (425) 649-7086.



Gary Locke presents Canyon Creek representatives the 1999 Governor's Pollution Prevention Award. From left: Governor Gary Locke, Bill Weaver, President; Kent Boyer, Senior Vice President; John Earl, Regulatory Affairs Manager; Tim Shay, Director of Engineering; Les Sanders, Technical Representative (AKZO/Nobel Coatings, Inc.).

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"A New Way of Doing Business Around Here"

That's a direct quote from Mike Brennan, president of the Whatcom - Bellingham Chamber of Commerce. He's referring to his community's adoption of a more ecological viewpoint on commercial, industrial, residential, and institutional land uses. The catalyst for this change is the Whatcom Watershed Project, an effort to connect pollution prevention with improved water quality.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) staff from the Bellingham Field Office and the Northwest Regional Office are engaging in a wide range of activities addressing local concerns. State and local government employees, aided by a \$250,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, are working in teams with community members. A key part of the project is the Residential and Business Pledge. Participants sign a pledge to change their behavior to benefit the health of their watershed. Some examples of measures of success include:

-  Residents in the study area have taken the pledge to heart, dramatically changing behaviors to reduce pollution (e.g., 49% of the households surveyed reduced weed killer use).
-  Of the 400 businesses visited, 310 (75%) have taken a pledge to change business practices to prevent pollution.
-  Through a grant from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the project purchased a key five acre piece of land. The City of Bellingham has since donated an additional 45 acres of forested wetland. In July, Senator Patty Murray dedicated these lands as "Salmon Park, a park for our salmon."
-  Baseline chemical and biological sampling has been completed and will be followed up with long-term monitoring to measure environmental changes.



These efforts in Bellingham have attracted attention from Olympia to Washington D.C. Other communities in British Columbia, Oregon and Washington are exploring or implementing their own versions of the pledge. On November 4th, Governor Locke awarded the Whatcom Watershed Project the Governor's Award for Service and Quality Improvement. For further information on the project, contact the Department of Ecology's Bruce Barbour at (360) 738-6250.

USED OIL ALERT!

Intentionally mixing any waste with your used oil is prohibited.

It has come to the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) attention that vendors are now marketing what is referred to as a "high flash" solvent (flash point higher than 140 degrees F). Some vendors are telling generators that the spent solvent can then be "mixed" with their used oil and the mixture managed under the used oil provisions. **This is not the case! Mixing the spent solvent into your used oil could lead to your used oil becoming a dangerous waste and increase your disposal costs dramatically.**

Here's the scoop on what you should know about managing your solvents that are contaminated with used oil. Under certain conditions, Ecology allows solvent that has become contaminated through use with used oil to be managed as a used oil under WAC 173-303-515. These conditions are:

- ✓ The solvent became contaminated with oil through its use;
 - ✓ Before use, the solvent does not designate as a dangerous waste; and,
 - ✓ After use, the solvent does not designate as a dangerous waste.
- Only if all three of these conditions are met can the oily mixture be managed under the used oil regulations. If you have questions, contact your regional office.

Ecology Engineers Help Food Processor Reduce Water Use

The Department of Ecology's Toxics Reduction Engineer Exchange (TREE) team helped a potato processing company reduce the amount of water used by 80,000 gallons per day. Basin Frozen Foods (BFF) produces frozen hash browns and discharges its process wastewater to the City of Warden's (Grant County) industrial wastewater treatment facility. BFF's planned expansion to produce french fries required a concerted effort to reduce water use because of limited additional treatment capacity at the city's facility and the absence of any new fresh water from the city. (There is no more water to be allocated in Warden.)

Ecology's TREE team visited BFF in March 1999. At that time the plant was using 275,000 gallons of water per day. Within a month after that first visit, BFF had decreased its water use to 195,000 gallons a day. The TREE team returned to spend several days observing BFF's processes and measuring the amounts of water used. About a month later they submitted a report to BFF explaining their water use reduction ideas.

It is now up to BFF to decide whether or not to implement the team's ideas. Implementation is projected to provide savings of \$11,000 a year and reduce water consumption by an additional 120,000 gallons of water a day. The water savings would help BFF add a french fry operation.

Ecology's TREE team uses engineering analysis to reduce environmental impacts, facility costs and regulatory requirements. The technical assistance is provided at no cost to the company. Companies may apply for TREE assistance by calling Christa Colouzis at (425) 649-7143.

Metal Machining Industry Sector Report Available

The Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program recently completed a technical assistance project with the Metal Machining Industry Sector. The project focused on the specific pollution prevention and regulatory issues for the metal machining industry. A team of staff researched these issues, conducted site visits at a cross-section of facilities and published a report. A roundtable was also held with lively discussions and presenters from industry as well as local and state government.

The final report is called *Metal Machining Sector: A Pollution Prevention Assessment and Guidance*. Highlights include:

- A summary of the 20 most significant pollution prevention practices;
- A metal working fluid maintenance plan to extend fluid life;
- The compliance issues involved with the disposal of spent metal working fluids.

In addition, Ecology is considering adopting new used oil regulations that will change the designation process for some spent metal working fluids, particularly those with chlorinated compounds. The report discusses these proposed changes in detail. Public hearings on these proposed regulatory changes will be held in February of 2000. A notice will be mailed to interested parties about the hearing dates and times. To be added to the mailing list, call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 or e-mail him at dzin461@ecy.wa.gov.

Copies of the Metal Machining Sector Report can be downloaded from Ecology's website at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/biblio/hwtr.html>. If you would like to request a copy of the report or have any questions about pollution prevention in the metal machining industry, please call James DeMay at (360) 407-6338 or contact him by email at jade461@ecy.wa.gov.

Changes to The Dangerous Waste Regulations

Proposed amendments to the Dangerous Waste Regulations are available for public comment. Most of the changes are federal hazardous waste regulations that the Department of Ecology (Ecology) must adopt. A few were initiated by Ecology.

Changes to incorporate federal requirements will include:

- ▲ updating the land disposal restriction requirements;
- ▲ incorporating the remainder of the Environmental Protection Agency's interim status standards for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities;
- ▲ adopting the federal used oil rules with some state modifications;
- ▲ universal waste standards for lamps.

State-initiated changes include:

- ▲ transporter requirements including additional requirements for transfer facilities;
- ▲ withdrawal of the exclusion for steel mill flue dust when used to make fertilizer.

For a copy of the proposal, please call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 or visit Ecology's web site:

www.wa.gov

[/ecology/hwtr/](http://www.wa.gov/ecology/hwtr/). Call Chipper Hervieux for additional information or hearing dates at (360) 407-6756. Comments on the proposed rule changes are due by **February 29, 2000**.

Is Your Annual Report Sent to the Correct Person?

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) sends the 1999 Dangerous Waste Annual Report Verification forms to the individual listed as "The Contact for Annual Report Forms" (Forms Contact). Make sure that the Forms Contact listed is the appropriate person at your company and that the mailing address shown is correct.

The Forms Contact must be authorized personnel of your site, not a hired consultant. Ecology is no longer accepting consultants as the Forms Contact. Annual reports are due by, March 1st, 2000. If you have questions, please call Bert Ponton at (360) 407-6731.

Shopping for a Better Deal on Insurance?

What does insurance have to do with pollution prevention? Maybe a lot. The risks of pollution-related liabilities can be high. Most business insurance does not cover property damage and liabilities resulting from pollutants, including hazardous materials. The cost of environmental insurance to cover these potential costs and liabilities can be significant. Fortunately, an increasing number of insurers recognize and reward pollution prevention and the responsible management of hazardous materials with expanded coverage and/or reduced rates.

Seven fact sheets on the relationship between insurance and pollution prevention have been prepared by the Department of Ecology (Ecology). The fact sheets serve to:

- ✓ help businesses obtain benefits for their pollution prevention and good hazardous materials management;
- ✓ improve understanding of pollution prevention risk reduction benefits by the insurance industry; and
- ✓ help technical assistance providers become more familiar with insurance, so they can flag insurance costs and pollution risks when marketing pollution prevention to business clients.

Businesses need to aggressively shop and bargain for insurance policies which recognize and reward reductions in risk due to pollution prevention and good hazardous materials management.

All seven fact sheets are available on the web site of the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (<http://www.pprc.org>). One of the fact sheets provides Internet links to numerous web sites covering various aspects of environmental insurance.

For more information call Ecology's Jerry Parker at (360) 407-6750.

Q When I hire a contractor to work at my site, who is responsible for dangerous wastes that are generated?

A You are. Commercial property owners (the dangerous waste rules do not apply to homeowners) are responsible for the dangerous wastes generated on their property. Contractors can assist the property owner in managing the waste, but the waste would be counted towards the property owner's generator status and would need to be manifested off-site for recycling or treatment from the property. Contractors should not take wastes generated at the work site back to their shop. This activity is illegal transportation of dangerous wastes.

Contractors are responsible for wastes that originate on their own property. If a contractor generates waste back at his or her own shop (i.e., to strip and re-finish salvaged wood) he or she would be generating and manifesting that resulting waste under their own shop's RCRA Site Identification number.

Contractors can leave leftover paint, caulk and other materials for the property owner to use during future maintenance because "touch-up" products are not considered to be a waste.

Q When is it necessary to get a RCRA Site Identification (ID) Number?

A A RCRA Site ID number must be obtained if a site is generating regulated amounts of dangerous waste. For example, a construction site that has no previous RCRA Site ID number must obtain an ID number if hazardous wastes are generated at or above the small quantity generator levels (higher than 220 pounds per month or batch). A contractor who generates dangerous waste on a site that already has a RCRA Site ID number must use the existing Site ID number. Any wastes generated on the site would be reported on that site's annual report forms.

Remember: The RCRA Site ID number is assigned to a geographic location, so it cannot be used for waste generated at more than one site.

For questions about getting a RCRA Site ID number, contact the Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6737 or toll-free from within the state at 1-800-874-2022.

If you have questions about specific dangerous wastes or their management, contact your regional office listed on this page.

Ecology Contacts

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

Bellevue: (425) 649-7000

Lacey: (360) 407-6300

Yakima: (509) 575-2490

Spokane: (509) 456-2926

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