



# Shoptalk

A PUBLICATION FOR DANGEROUS WASTE MANAGERS

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## Label your waste containers right - What's in there?

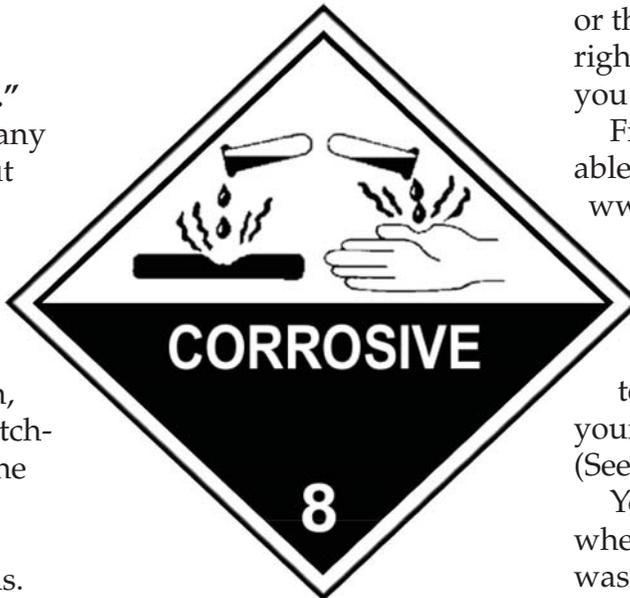
Have you ever found a "mystery" item in the back of the refrigerator? Did you risk opening it or just pitch it without trying to identify the contents? Refrigerator "mysteries" can be inconvenient and smelly, but dangerous waste "mysteries" are expensive and could be life threatening. That's why proper labeling is so important.

All dangerous waste must be labeled with three things:

- 1. The words "dangerous waste" or "hazardous waste."** The labels do not have to be any particular color or format, but they must be easy to read. Labels on tanks must be readable from 50 feet away.
- 2. The major risks of the waste.** Will it explode? Is it corrosive (eats away skin, metal, etc.)? Is it ignitable (catches on fire easily)? These are the diamond-shaped labels with little pictures, also known as "risk" or "hazard class" labels. They help anyone who handles the waste know how to protect themselves, whether they are the first or the last person to deal with the container.
- 3. The date that waste was first put into the container, also known as the "accumulation start date."**

Hazardous Waste	
<b>FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS IMPROPER DISPOSAL</b>	
If found, contact the nearest police or public safety authority, and the Washington State Department of Ecology or the Environmental Protection Agency	
Accumulation Start Date:	Generator Name:
Reportable Quantities (RQ): <small>lbs</small> <small>40 CFR Subchapter J, Part 302, Table 302.4</small>	Address:
Manifest Document #:	City:
Emergency Response Guide #:	State:
EPA Waste Code(s) and/or Characteristic(s)	Zip:
	EPA ID #:
EPA/DOT Shipping Name:	
Hazard Class:	
UN/NA #:	
Packing Group (PG):	
<small>In the event of a spill or release of this hazardous waste, contact the US Coast Guard National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 for information and assistance.</small>	

*This is an example of a hazardous waste label – note the "Accumulation Start Date."*



*This is an example of a "risk" or "hazard class" label. This one shows the material will burn skin and corrode metal.*

This is critical in determining how long you can keep the waste on-site.

If the container is in a satellite accumulation area, however, the date will be when the amount

reaches 55 gallons. For acutely hazardous waste in a satellite accumulation area, the date will be when the amount reaches one quart.

You can save time and money by taking care in labeling and storing your waste. Knowing what is in each container and keeping wastes separate will help keep down disposal costs. It also keeps products from

being accidentally contaminated or thrown away. And using the right containers will help keep you and your employees safe.

Free printable labels are available on the Ecology Web site at: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/hw\\_labels/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/hw_labels/index.html)

For more information, contact the dangerous waste inspectors and technical assistance staff at your Ecology regional office. (See contact numbers on page 4.)

You need additional labeling when sending your dangerous waste off-site. The U.S. Department of Transportation is in charge of labeling for transport. You can find information on their Web site at: [www.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov)

*(Look in the next issue of Shoptalk for more on labeling – like the difference between "spent" and "used.")*

## Urban Waters Initiative

New funding from the 2007 Washington legislature promises to boost clean-up and protection efforts in three of the state's key water bodies – the Lower Duwamish Waterway in South Seattle, Commencement Bay in Tacoma, and the reach of the Spokane River that flows through the city of Spokane.

The legislature budgeted \$2.57 million for this "Urban Waters Initiative," to focus on water bodies that are under pollution pressures from concentrated population and industry. Nearly 70 percent of the state's dangerous waste generators – most of them small businesses – are in the Puget Sound region and the Spokane River watershed.

Both the Lower Duwamish and Commencement Bay are on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "superfund" list. EPA and Ecology have been coordinating the cleanup of some Spokane River recreational sites in or near the city.

EPA and Ecology generally divide responsibilities for these projects, with EPA managing the cleanup and Ecology coordinating "source control" to keep the cleaned up sites from being re-contaminated. The new funding will help Ecology increase its efforts to trace the sources of key pollutants and to make sure that permits are up to date and being followed.

The Urban Waters Initiative will complement another new project, the Local Source Control Partnership. (See "Local Source Control Partnerships to Help Small Businesses," in the Winter 2007 *Shoptalk*.)

These local government and Ecology source control specialists will be stepping up site visits in the Urban Waters areas to help businesses:

- Identify potential sources of contamination.
- Ensure they have the right environmental permits and are in compliance.



*The Urban Waters Initiative will help Ecology and businesses prevent pollution from reaching Puget Sound and the Spokane River.*

- Provide technical assistance on Best Management Practices to reduce toxics and prevent pollution.
- Develop site-specific solutions.

For more information about how Ecology staff can work with your business, contact your local program office at the numbers on Page 4.

### Used Oil - Keep it Clean and Legal

Ecology dangerous waste inspectors are finding evidence of confusion about the Washington rule on used oil. Simply put, don't mix anything with your used oil.

The state has used oil rules that allow for simpler management of this common waste. But these rules only apply to pure used oil – mixing anything else with the used oil turns it into dangerous waste. (Under certain conditions, the **federal** rules allow mixing other materials with used oil, but **Washington did not adopt that part of the federal rule.**)

Ecology inspectors have found businesses adding waste solvent to their used oil containers. Solvents often designate as dangerous wastes because they can catch fire (ignitability). They can also contain chlorinated compounds and heavy metals.

Mixing dangerous waste with

your used oil is an expensive mistake, because then you must manage, and dispose of, the entire mixture as dangerous waste.

Also, you cannot manage other materials, such as rags or absorbents, as used oil. These rules apply to all generators, including small quantity generators.

So what is considered "used oil"? Basically, it is anything that has been refined from crude oil, or synthetic oil, that has been used and can no longer serve its original purpose without reprocessing. For example, used crankcase, transmission, and hydraulic oil can all qualify as used oil.

For more details, see *Materials that may or may not be managed as used oil in Washington State*, Ecology publication #06-04-00X [www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/060400X.html].



## Cooperation Keeps 12,000 Pounds of Mercury Out of the Environment



(l to r: Jay Manning, Robb Menaul, Washington State Hospital Association)

In an Earth Day celebration, Ecology director Jay Manning presented Quicksilver Champion awards to 17 individuals and groups that have helped to prevent more than 12,000 pounds of mercury from entering the environment. He also recognized 12 businesses, organizations, and government agencies that have joined with Ecology as Quicksilver Partners. (For more information and the names of the Mercury Partners, go to: [www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury/))

### Quicksilver Champions:

- ❖ AAA Washington
- ❖ Automotive Recyclers of Washington
- ❖ Ecology Central Regional Office
- ❖ Gail Savina
- ❖ Hospital Pollution Prevention Team
- ❖ Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, King County
- ❖ Mercury Action Plan Group
- ❖ Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- ❖ Representative Sam Hunt
- ❖ Small Scale Miner Community
- ❖ Spokane Regional Solid Waste System
- ❖ Walla Walla County
- ❖ Washington State Air Conditioning Contractors of America
- ❖ Washington State Dental Association
- ❖ Washington State Hospital Association
- ❖ Washington State Retail Association
- ❖ Washington Toxics Coalition

## Stay Informed on Facility Changes

Do you want to receive information about dangerous waste management or used oil facilities statewide? You can get information about:

- A proposal to site a new facility.
- A draft or final decision to issue or deny a permit.
- A request to modify an existing permit.
- A decision to approve or deny a permit modification.
- Plans to close a facility.

You can be included on the mailing list used for notices about permits for facilities that recycle, treat, store, or dispose of dangerous waste or used oil. You can receive these notices electronically on the free listserve or as paper copies.

To join the listserve, go to: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=DWFACILITIES-PUBLIC-NOTICE> (Your e-mail address may be shared with other dangerous waste facilities that are also required to send public notices on the same issues.)

For paper copies, or for more information, contact Nancy Farman, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (360) 407-0272.

### All the News With Less Paper

*Shoptalk* online can be yours for a few simple clicks of the mouse. Save a tree and de-clutter your mailbox!

Go to: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/shoptalkonline/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/shoptalkonline/) and click on the "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" link. Follow the directions to input your e-mail address, submit and...that's it!

When the next *Shoptalk* issue comes out you'll get an e-mail with the direct link. Just remember to keep your e-mail address up-to-date to make sure you get all the dangerous waste management news you need.

Questions? Call Cathy Bouge at (360) 407-6745, or e-mail her at [cbou461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cbou461@ecy.wa.gov).

## Questions and Answers

**Q** Where can I find a lab that will test my material? What companies give safety training? Who cleans out sumps in my area? Are there consultants I can work with on my waste issues?

**A** Look in the Hazardous Waste Service Directory for the answers to these and other needs. Go to: [www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/hwtr/hwsd/default.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/hwtr/hwsd/default.htm). From "Alternative Solvents" to "Waste Ink Management," this searchable directory has hundreds of listings for services you might need to manage your dangerous waste.

The page also has links to moderate risk waste contacts and tribal contacts in Washington. There's even a link to a list of other agencies and organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

Keep in mind, the service directory is just a listing of companies. It does not constitute

a recommendation by the Department of Ecology or any other regulatory agency. No matter who you deal with, proper handling and disposal of waste is the responsibility of the generator.

### 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 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

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*If you need this information in an alternate format, 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.*

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