



Shoptalk

A publication for dangerous waste managers

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Shoptalk is Going All Online! No more mailing paper copies

The budget crunch has hit *Shoptalk*. Due to the high costs of printing and mailing, we will distribute *Shoptalk* by electronic means only. This is the newsletter's last paper copy issue. You need to subscribe to the list serve to continue receiving *Shoptalk*. Tell others to join so they can enjoy *Shoptalk* too.

Subscribing is easy! Go to the *Shoptalk* Web page (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/shoptalkonline) and subscribe to the *Shoptalk* Newsletter List Serve. You'll get an e-mail notice whenever a new issue is ready. You can also view *Shoptalk* any time on the Web page. If you have questions, or need assistance, please call Cathy Bouge at (360) 407-6745, or e-mail her at: cbou461@ecy.wa.gov.

Free Labels for Your Waste

Need a label in a hurry for your dangerous waste? You're not alone. Do a Web search for "hazardous waste labels" and you'll find the link to labels from the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program in the top results. The labels are **free, down-loadable, and in color** at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/hw_labels/index.html.

What type of label do you need?

- Do you want a **waste label** for a particular type of waste, to record an accumulation period, or for shipping information?
- Do you want to label your **Universal Waste**, such as batteries, mercury thermostats, or lamps?
- Do you need a **fire protection** Diamond label from the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA)?
- Are you looking for a **risk label** that indicates a chemical is toxic, persistent, or combustible?

- How about a **miscellaneous label** such as "do not dump," "empty container," or "pending analysis?"
- You can even find labels for wastes from **specific sources**, such as "used spray cabinet wash water" and "contaminated shop towels."

Downloading the label is easy with your choice of format: jpg, PDF, or doc. You can choose to print your label in English or Spanish.

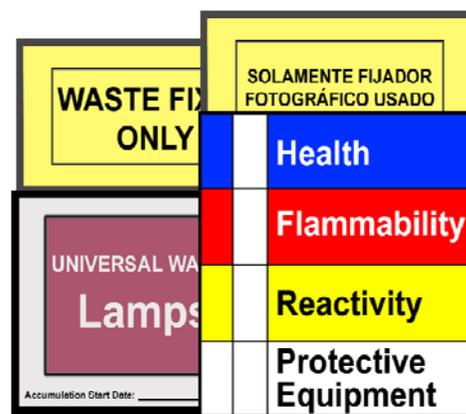
Attaching the label is simple – use tape, or magnets if you have a metal container.

There's a lot more that you can use on our Web site

Visit our Web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/index.html to find:

- Requirements for managing your dangerous waste.
- Ways to reduce the volume and toxicity of your waste.

- Reporting forms and instructions.
- Toxic Free Tips.
- Links to databases and publications.
- E-mail and phone numbers for Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction staff.



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“Environmental Fees” are Not Ecology Fees

When the FBI called Scott Lamb, toxics reduction specialist in Bellevue, he realized it wasn't about some new terrorist threat. In fact, it was a story he had heard before. An auto shop had charged substantial “environmental fees” for work done on the FBI's fleet, and claimed that the Department of Ecology required these fees.

Lamb explained the state does not require “environmental fees.” Some repair shops add fees, usually small amounts, to their bills to help with disposal of used oil and other materials. But that is their choice – it is not based on any rule or law of the state.

The only fee the state of Washington requires auto shops to pass on to consumers is a \$1 per tire fee on the sale of new tires. That money goes into a special account to prevent and clean up illegal tire piles.

State and federal law does require auto shops – in fact all businesses – to properly manage any materials and wastes that qualify as hazardous. This includes wastes from petroleum, solvents, acids, poisons, and heavy metals such as lead and mercury. The wastes must be contained, labeled, handled, and disposed of in a way that protects human health and the environment.

Most businesses do a good job and consider the associated costs part of being a good member of the community.



State Amends Dangerous Waste Rules

Washington is amending Chapter 173-303 WAC, the *Dangerous Waste Regulations* in 2009. The changes make the state's rules consistent with the federal Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous waste program. In particular, the changes align the state rules with the federal Manifest Rule and Universal Waste mercury categories. The amendment also updates the *Biological and Chemical Testing Method* publications for state wastes.

The rule amendments will be adopted in June. To learn more about the amendments go to www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/activity/wac173303.html. If you have questions about the rule amendment process, call Rob Rieck at (360) 407-6751 or e-mail him at rori461@ecy.wa.gov.

To receive an automatic notice whenever the dangerous waste rules change, join the electronic list at listserv.wa.gov/archives/dw-rules.html.

Dangerous Waste Workshops Now Online

Are you missing the dangerous waste management workshops previously held around the state? An online tutorial is now available at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/workshops/.

The tutorial has all the presentations from the workshops – Dangerous Waste 101, Designation, Counting, Rules for Generators, Preparing for an Inspection, Mock Inspection, and Pollution Prevention. It uses the slides and speakers' notes from the workshop, with links to Chapter 173-303 WAC, the *Dangerous Waste Regulations* and other on-line materials. Supplemental materials, such as the Material Safety Data

Sheets for the designation exercises, are available in a separate file.

Anyone who wants to learn the basics of managing dangerous waste can work through the tutorial at their own pace. They can use it directly from the Web site, or download the files. The electronic format means they can learn the basics of waste management without leaving the workplace. The tutorial is available in PDF and Microsoft PowerPoint formats.

For more information about the online workshop, contact Mariann Cook Andrews at (360) 407-6740 or e-mail at maco461@ecy.wa.gov.

Governor's Award Skips a Year

The Governor's Award for Sustainable Practices program will not be offered in 2009, another sacrifice due to the budget pressures facing Ecology.

"We know there are facilities out there that are making good progress towards sustainability," said K Seiler, manager of the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program. "It's not a lack of good candidates but a lack of state resources -- both dollars and staff levels -- that led to this decision. We hope to offer the award again in 2010."

The award recognizes facilities and organizations that excel in preventing pollution, conserving resources, and furthering Washington's movement towards sustainability. It's been awarded annually since 1991.

For more information, visit the award's Web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/GovAward or contact Mariann Cook Andrews at (360) 407-6740, or e-mail her at maco461@ecy.wa.gov.

Committee Recommends Steps to Reduce Toxics

An advisory committee recommends the state work harder on the riskiest toxic chemicals, finding replacements and helping businesses, especially small ones.

These and other recommendations come from the Toxics Reduction Advisory Committee, which Ecology established at the request of the Legislature. It met last year to investigate ways the state can reduce the use of toxics, and improve the pollution prevention planning program.

The committee members included large and small businesses, business associations, toxicologists, government agencies, and citizens' groups that advocate less use of toxics. Among other actions, it recommended the state:

- Help small businesses find safer alternatives to toxic substances.
- Expand statewide the EnviroStars program, which recognizes businesses that voluntarily go "beyond compliance."
- Increase funding for a revolving account established to help manufacturers make process improvements.
- Make fees charged to pollution prevention planners – the largest generators and users of toxics – both fairer and more proportional to the potential threat posed to people and the environment.
- Increase the resources devoted to "Lean and Green," which uses lean manufacturing techniques to reduce environmental wastes, and the Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiency (TREE) Team, which provides free engineering support for pollution prevention at small and mid-sized companies.

The recommendations show a direction for Ecology's pollution prevention program for the future. Some actions will have to wait since they require legislative action, or new funds, which will be difficult in the current financial situation.

For a copy of the report, visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0804029.html. For more information about Ecology technical assistance services, visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/reducewaste.html.

Hazardous Waste "Generation" Fee – It's Not a New Fee

Your company may receive a bill this June for the annual \$46 Hazardous Waste Generation Fee. This is nothing new; it's the same fee assessed for nearly 20 years.

Only the name is new. In the past, Ecology called it the Hazardous Waste "Education" fee, which created a bit of confusion. Actually, the fee is about the **generation** of hazardous waste. A business triggers the fee if it generated hazardous waste in the prior year, or if it's in an industrial classification that could generate hazardous waste.

The law calls the fee the "Hazardous Waste Generation Fee" (Chapter 70.95E.020, Revised Code of Washington). The law states, "A fee is imposed for the privilege of generating hazardous waste in the state." The Legislature enacted the law in 1990 to address a broad range of hazardous waste management needs across the state.

The fees go into the Hazardous Waste Assistance Account, which funds almost one-fifth of the work of Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program. That means you can:

- Get advice on what to use instead of hazardous chemicals.

- Find out about new systems and processes to lower your production of hazardous waste, and your costs.
- Get free publications on everything from solvent substitutes to vehicle recycling.
- Visit the ever-expanding Web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/index.html.

Now, we're making sure to call this fee by its official name to resolve some of the confusion. For more information on the fee – what it is, how it is assessed, and the work it funds – contact Jeri Berube at (360) 407-6733.

Looking for Safer Solvents?

A tool manufacturing company reduced its cleaning costs by 33 percent, or about \$5,800 per year. They did this by using a terpene solvent with surfactants, rather than trichloroethylene, as their degreasing solvent, followed by a hot water rinse and drying.

Another company saved \$45,000 annually by eliminating methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) and switching to EP-921 paint gun cleaner.

Ecology has experienced toxics reduction specialists who can advise you on solvent substitution techniques and issues. They can do this by a phone call or educational (non-enforcement) visits to your worksite. They offer free technical assistance on solvent substitution, economic concerns, pollution prevention opportunities, and suppliers. Call the regional office phone numbers on page 4 to reach a toxics reduction specialist.

Solvent substitution is a fast-changing field. Here are some links to useful information:

www.cleansolutions.org/wrrc.p2pays.org/
www.irta.us/reports.htm
<https://js.ctc.com/>

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the difference between “spent” and “used”?

A: Chapter 173-303 WAC, the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*, define “Spent material” as any material that has been used and, because of contamination, can no longer serve the purpose for which it was produced without processing.

This can include spent lead acid batteries, spent antifreeze, spent pickle liquor, spent activated carbon, and spent sulfuric acid.

The rules define “Used oil” as any oil that has been refined from crude oil, or any synthetic oil, that has been used and because of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities. The **only** material that can be marked as “used” is used oil.

For a list of materials that can be managed as used oil, see Ecology publication #06-04-00X *Materials that may or may not be managed as used oil in Washington State*, www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/060400X.html. Label these materials “Used Oil” when you are recycling them.

For more information, contact Nolan Lattyak at (360) 407-6323, or e-mail: nlat461@ecy.wa.gov.

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Last Paper Copy!

See details on front page

Department of Ecology

Your business is liable for all dangerous wastes it generates. 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, call your nearest Ecology office:

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.

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