



Shoptalk

A newsletter about dangerous waste and pollution prevention

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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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States Push for Changes to Toxic Substance Control Act

Where were you in 1976? Have you changed much? If you're the Toxics Substances Control Act, the answers are "just enacted" and "not at all."

Congress passed the federal Toxics Substance Control Act in 1976 to track the more than 75,000 industrial chemicals in use at that time. Now there are 83,000 chemicals registered, and more are added every year.



The Act, also known as TSCA (pronounced "toscah") covers reporting, record-keeping, and testing requirements, and restrictions relating to chemical substances and mixtures. It generally excludes food, drugs, cosmetics, and pesticides. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the law.

Now Congress is considering new legislation, "Safe Chemicals Act of 2010," to amend the 1976 act. The text of the "Safe Chemicals Act of 2010" can be found at <http://lautenberg.senate.gov/assets/SCA2010.pdf>. A full summary of the bill can be found at <http://lautenberg.senate.gov/assets/SCA2010Summary.pdf>. For information on the House discussion draft, see: http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1956:chairmen-rush-waxman-release-discussion-draft-of-the-toxic-chemicals-safety-act&catid=122:media-advisories&Itemid=55.

A poll conducted in August 2009 by the opinion research firm Lake Research Partners found that Americans are very concerned with the way chemicals are regulated for consumer use.

"Increasingly, consumers are recognizing the value of non-toxic and low-toxic products," said Ken Zarker, pollution prevention manager in Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction office. "And companies are realizing that this market is good for their bottom line and the environment."

Zarker is the Washington state lead in the effort by 13 states* to encourage Congress to amend the Toxics Substances Control Act. These states say the Act does not contain powerful enough tools to safely monitor and control the tens of thousands of chemicals used every day. They want changes that will protect vulnerable populations by effectively identifying and regulating the most-troubling chemicals.

For one thing, although EPA collects detailed information on the toxicity of the chemicals, it is not allowed to share that information with the public or state and local officials, due to business confidentiality claims.

The 13 states collaborated on a set of principles they believe will ensure that the debate stays focused on protecting the public health and the environment. The key recommendations are:

- Manufacturers must demonstrate that the chemicals they use and the products they make are safe – for the public and the environment.
- Safer products and chemicals should be promoted.
- Chemical and safety information should be widely available to regulators, businesses, and the public.

"Without adequate protection at the federal level, it has fallen to the states to protect people and the environment from the toxic chemicals that are causing harm. But dealing with toxic contamination after the fact is ultimately futile – the human environmental, and economic damage is already done," said Ted Sturdevant, Ecology Director. "We need a federal law that prevents contamination from happening in the first place, and phases out the harmful chemicals that are already in widespread use. That's common sense, but it's not the system we have today."

For more information on the Toxics Substances Control Act, and Washington state's involvement in recommending changes, contact Ken Zarker, (360) 407-6724, e-mail: kzar461@ecy.wa.gov.

*The states signing on to the reform principles are California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

EPA Proposes Adding 16 Chemicals to Toxics Release Information Reporting List

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposes to add 16 chemicals to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) list of reportable chemicals. (See Table 1.) This would be the first expansion to the TRI list in over a decade. This is part of EPA’s ongoing efforts to examine the scope of TRI chemical coverage and provide communities with more complete information on toxic chemical releases. EPA is seeking comments by June 7, 2010 on the proposal.

In their Report on Carcinogens, the National Toxicology Program classified the chemicals to be added as “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.” Based on a review of this data, EPA believes that these 16 chemicals meet the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) section 313(d)(2)(B) statutory listing criteria because they can reasonably be anticipated to cause cancer in humans.

Four of the chemicals would be added to the polycyclic aromatic compounds (PACs) category. This is a category of special concern, because PACs are persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic (PBT) chemicals. They are likely to remain in the environment for a very long time, are not readily destroyed, and can build up or accumulate in the body.

You can find more information, including a link to the full text of the proposal and instructions on submitting comments, at www.epa.gov/tri/lawsandregs/ntp_chemicals/#q1.



Table 1. Chemicals Proposed for TRI Listing

Chemical Name	CAS No.
1-Amino-2,4-dibromoanthraquinone	81-49-2
2,2-bis(Bromomethyl)-1,3-propanediol	3296-90-0
Furan	110-00-9
Glycidol	556-52-5
Isoprene	78-79-5
Methyleugenol	93-15-2
o-Nitroanisole	91-23-6
Nitromethane	75-52-5
Phenolphthalein	77-09-8
Tetrafluoroethylene	116-14-3
Tetranitromethane	509-14-8
Vinyl Fluoride	75-02-5

Additions to PACs Category	
1,6-Dinitropyrene	42397-64-8
1,8-Dinitropyrene	42397-65-9
6-Nitrochrysene	7496-02-8
4-Nitropyrene	57835-92-4

Electronics Recycling is Free and Easy!

Imagine a stack of 473,000 TVs. It would rise 709,500 feet, taller than 24 Mount Everests! That's how many televisions the E-Cycle Washington program collected since it began January 1, 2009. And that's just the TVs!

The E-Cycle Washington program is one of the first statewide programs in the nation to collect unwanted TVs, computers, and monitors for free recycling. Manufacturers of these electronic products pay for the program, which the Department of Ecology regulates. To date, E-Cycle Washington has safely and responsibly recycled a total of over 48 million pounds of electronics:

- 28,377,000 million pounds of televisions
- 14,973,000 million pounds of monitors
- 4,782,000 million pounds of computers



Portables, tabletop, or cabinet-sized televisions, they all come to E-Cycle Washington drop-off locations.

Electronic products are difficult to recycle because they contain heavy metals and chemicals at hazardous levels. Depending on its size, a TV's cathode ray tube (the "screen") contains an estimated four to eight pounds of lead. Recycling electronic products keeps toxic metals like lead and mercury out of landfills and the environment.

"The E-Cycle Washington program is even more successful than we had hoped," said Ted Sturdevant, Ecology director. "At the start, we estimated the program would collect 26 million pounds in the first year, but it hit that total after only eight months.

"And these numbers don't include the thousands of working units that went to reuse through sales or donations by collectors including charities such as Goodwill, the Salvation Army, and St. Vincent DePaul," he added.

Households, schools, small businesses (<50 employees), small governments, and charities can take advantage of this free program. More than 230 sites and mobile services in Washington are available to collect electronics across the state.

"I applaud the manufacturers for stepping up to this challenge. The planet has finite resources, and we need to eliminate toxic releases into the environment. For both those reasons, this kind of closed-loop system for toxic products is the future," Sturdevant said.

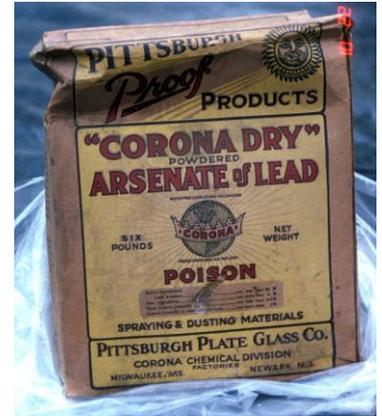
To find a collection site near you, visit www.ecyclewashington.org or call 1-800-RECYCLE.

WSDA Takes Pesticides for Free, Safe Disposal

The Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is planning several events in Western Washington this summer to collect unwanted pesticides. The Waste Pesticide Identification and Disposal Program collects and disposes of pesticides from farmers, pesticide applicators, pest control firms, institutional users, and others.

Agricultural and commercial-grade pesticide products accepted for disposal include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and most chemicals that kill, repel, or prevent unwanted pests. Customers can bring unwanted pesticides to a regional collection site. The service is free.

WSDA's program does not accept empty pesticide containers, fertilizers, motor oil, and household hazardous waste. Contact your local solid waste program for assistance with these other items.



Improper disposal or long-term storage of unwanted pesticides can threaten human and animal health, harm the natural environment, or even saddle a property owner with costly financial liability.

A hazardous waste company works with WSDA at the collection site to segregate and package the pesticides for safe, legal transportation and disposal. The pesticides are shipped to licensed hazardous waste destruction facilities in Utah and Arkansas.

The program has already held events this year in Quincy, Mattawa, Yakima, and Othello. Planned events in Okanogan and Wenatchee are already full. There will be a collection event in Sedro-Woolley on June 29. Interested persons should contact WSDA by May 27 to sign up.

The early deadline allows WSDA staff time to respond to any requested farm site assistance and plan for an efficient, safe event. The agency is also planning events in Vancouver and the central Puget Sound Region this year.

Since the program began in 1988, WSDA has collected 2.3 million pounds of unwanted pesticides. Last year alone, the agency took in 167,000 pounds from 350 customers.



Workers prepare collected pesticides for shipping to destruction facilities.

“Most of our customers are best served at regional collection events in places like Yakima, Wenatchee, Pasco, or Mount Vernon,” Joe Hoffman, program coordinator, said. “But WSDA also does special waste events, where our staff travels to a customer’s site and assists with the packing and handling of pesticides on the spot.”

“Don’t wait for a pesticide collection event to be scheduled near you,” Hoffman advised. “If you have pesticides anywhere in the state in need of disposal, contact WSDA and we’ll work this out together.”

WSDA encourages pesticide users, distributors, and retailers to prevent accumulating unusable pesticides. Plan carefully, stay informed about current federal and state pesticide-use laws, and limit pesticide purchases to only the amounts needed for specific applications or seasons.

For more information, visit WSDA’s Waste Pesticide Program web site at www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/WastePesticide.aspx or contact WSDA toll-free at (877) 301-4555, e-mail wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov.

New Federal Rule for Recycling, Exporting Lead-acid Batteries

The federal government recently changed the regulations for recycling and exporting spent lead acid batteries. The change will not affect you if your business only generates spent batteries, but you should make sure that recyclers taking your batteries are aware of the new requirements.

Exporters of spent lead-acid batteries (SLABs) for reclamation must comply with new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) export requirements by July 7, 2010. Exporters must submit a notification and obtain consent from EPA and the receiving country that date.



Exporters should notify EPA as soon as possible to meet this deadline. If you are a recycler or broker working through an exporter, your exporter must have completed the notification and consent process. If not, you may also be in violation of federal law.

Send notifications directly to EPA headquarters. You can get more details at the EPA website: www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/international/oecd-slab-rule.htm.

Dangerous Waste Rule Changes Now Online

The 2009 amendments to the Dangerous Waste Regulations (Chapter 173-303 WAC) are now incorporated into the online version. You can also get a summary, Highlights of the 2009 Amendments to the Dangerous Waste Regulations, (Pub. # 04-04-035).

The rule revision incorporated federal requirements, updated state-specific requirements, and made other improvements. For a hardcopy of the regulation, contact Dave Zink, (360) 407-6752, e-mail: dzin461@ecy.wa.gov.

Toxic Free Tips Has The Answers

Toxic Free Tips has a new symbol. Look for this sign when you're trying to find answers about items that might be toxic, or you just need help finding your way through the bureaucracy.

Toxic Free Tips offers a staffed, toll-free phone line (1-866-939-9991), a web site of resources, (www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips) and an e-mail contact (ToxicFreeTips@ecy.wa.gov). You can find the answers to your questions about toxics at home, at school, and at work.

This free service is part of Washington's efforts to inform and educate about the risks of toxics and guide people to safer alternatives.



Risk in a Can

Use care when applying aerosol solvents

A 24-year-old automotive technician had worked for two years when his hands and feet developed numbness and tingling that spread to his forearms and waist. He had been using from one to nine 15-oz aerosol cans of brake cleaner a day on brakes, tools, small spills, and engines. The cleaner contained 50 to 60 percent hexane (and 20 to 80 percent n-hexane), along with other solvents. His symptoms improved when he stopped using the cleaner, but he still had loss of feeling in his hands and feet.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and California State have focused on the risks to automotive repair workers from aerosol cleaners containing n-hexane. Hexane, especially combined with acetone or methyl ethyl ketone, (*aka* 2-butanone) is a neurotoxin that can cause peripheral neuropathy.

Peripheral neuropathy is damage to the peripheral nervous system that transmits information from the central nervous system to every other part of the body. Nerve damage has many symptoms: temporary numbness, tingling, sensitivity to touch, or muscle weakness. More extreme symptoms are burning pain (especially at night), muscle wasting, paralysis, and organ or gland dysfunction.

Hexane easily enters the blood stream when inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Automotive workers inhale these solvents as they spray because the aerosols hang in the air. Latex gloves don't provide effective skin protection from these solvents. Removing hexane exposure is the only known treatment for hexane-related neurotoxicity.

Auto repair facilities can check the ingredients listed on material safety data sheets (MSDS) for aerosol and other cleaners to ensure they do not contain hexane. Solvents containing hexane should be collected and disposed as hazardous waste. Use solvents that do not contain hexane or chlorinated solvents like methylene chloride, trichloroethane, or perchloroethylene.

For more information, visit:

- www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5045a3.htm
- www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/hesis/Documents/nhexane.pdf

