



ShopTalk

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A quarterly publication for hazardous waste generators

Do the Right Thing with Empty Containers

Take a look in your stockroom. What do you see? Probably shelves full of useful product. But how do you do the right thing with your containers once they are empty? A number of agencies have strict rules for storing and transporting empty containers.

A container is any moveable device in which a material is stored, transported, treated, disposed of, or otherwise handled. This means anything from a bottle to a bag liner to a 55-gallon (or larger) drum.

When is a container "empty"?

After you have removed as much of the contents that you possibly can through common methods, like pouring or pumping.

To be legally empty, containers must be drained so that no more than one inch of residue or 3 percent of the total capacity of the container remains inside. If you leave more than one inch of material inside, and choose not to use it, the material is now a waste that could be hazardous.

If a container can hold more than 110 gallons, the amount of waste remaining inside can be no more than 0.3 percent of the container's total capacity.

Compressed gas containers are empty when the pressure inside the container equals - or nearly equals - atmospheric pressure.

Containers of acutely hazardous waste, or pesticides marked with danger or warning labels, must be rinsed at least three times with water or solvent, depending on the original contents. You must then reuse or properly dispose of the rinse water.

Store your empty, covered containers in

an area protected from the weather. Rain and melted snow could collect inside a container you thought was empty and create a large volume of potentially hazardous waste.

Other agencies may have different definitions of "empty", or their own rules for transporting containers. For instance, under the Uniform Fire Code, an empty container has no residual hazardous materials or vapors. Regulatory requirements vary greatly.

It is best to contact the appropriate authorities before sending containers off-site. Check page 4 to find the phone number you can use to reach an Ecology hazardous waste specialist. You can also call your local fire department, the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission at (360) 753-6413, or the federal Department of Transportation office in your city.

My container is empty. Now what? Reuse or recycle it. The Industrial Materials Exchange Catalog lists companies that accept and redistribute empty drums. Several Washington businesses recondition used drums, including:

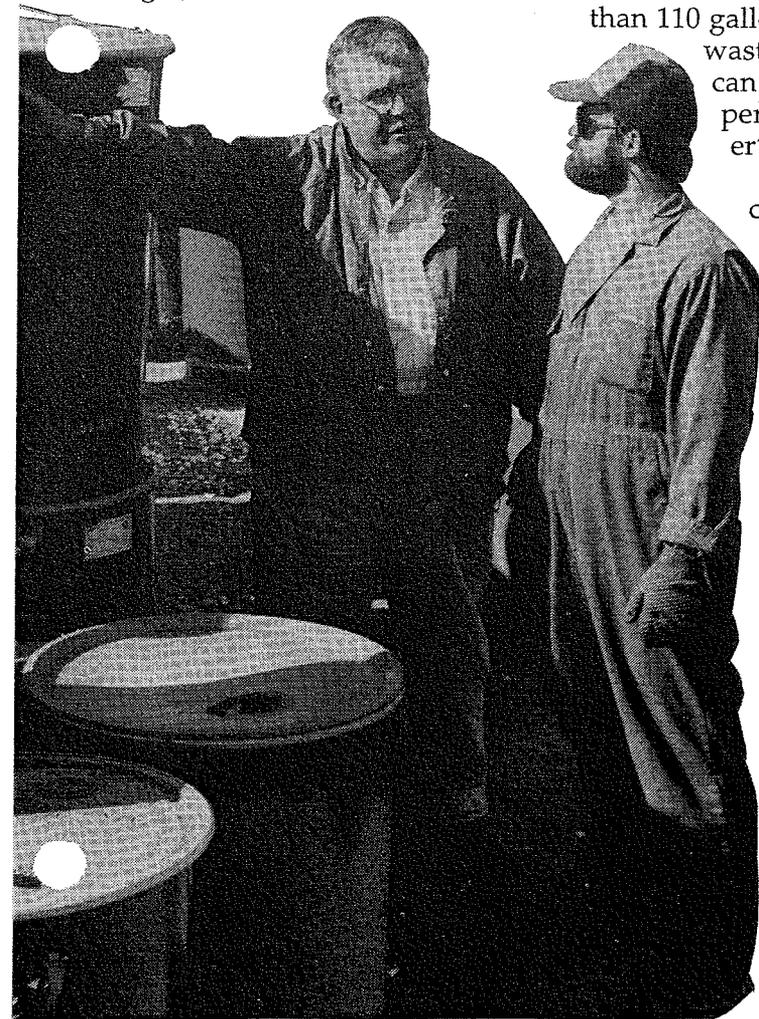
- ✓ Northwest Cooprage - Seattle (206) 763-2345
- ✓ Seattle Barrel - Seattle (206) 622-7218
- ✓ Steelhead Industries - Spokane (509) 468-9688

Check the Yellow Pages for similar services offered near you.

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At Steelhead Industries in Spokane, Operations Manager David Hebb and technician Bill Patheal inspect empty drums that are ready for redistribution.



1997 Dangerous Waste Generator Workshops

In January and February, Ecology will present a series of state-wide workshops for companies that generate dangerous waste. Workshops will include information on annual reporting, waste designation, and container management. A small charge covering the cost of room rental and lunch will be necessary.

This will be a good chance to ask questions in a casual atmosphere.

Information on space availability and registration for all workshops is available by calling (360) 407-6357 or 1-800-874-2022, or by calling the contact listed for each region.

✓Central Region

Regional Contact: Jim Pearson
(509) 457-7142

Yakima

Tuesday, February 4, 1997
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Yakima Area Arboretum
1401 Arboretum Drive

✓Eastern Region

Regional Contact: Jan Brydsen
(509) 456-2876

Spokane

Tuesday, January 28, 1997
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Spokane Community College
Student Union Building
North 1810 Greene Street

Richland

Thursday, January 30, 1997

8:00 am - 5:00 pm
WSU Conference Center
451 Hills Street

✓Northwest Region

Regional Contact: Vicki Sutton
(206) 649-7085

Silverdale

Tuesday, January 7, 1997
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Silverdale on the Bay
3073 NW Bucklin Hill Road

Mount Vernon

Wednesday, January 15, 1997
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Best Western Cottontree Inn
2300 Market Street

Lynnwood

Friday, January 17, 1997
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Best Western Landmark Hotel
4300 - 200th Street Southwest

✓Southwest Region

Regional Contact: Dave Saunders
(360) 407-6348

Vancouver

Thursday, January 9, 1997
8:00 am - 5:00 am
Red Lion Inn at the Quay
100 Columbia Street

Lacey

Monday, January 13, 1997
8:00 am - 5:00 am
Department of Ecology Building
Auditorium
300 Desmond Drive



In Eastern Washington, vehicle recycling is about to get easier with a campaign designed to help vehicle recycling facilities (formerly known as wrecking yards) understand their environmental regulatory responsibilities and recycling options without fear of fines or penalties.

Vehicle recyclers already make a valuable environmental contribution by recycling automotive parts and scrap. The scrap automobile is one of the most recycled items in the state today. Seventy-five percent of the material from cars is currently recycled. Progress is being made in recovering even more useful materials from discarded vehicles. Even so, vehicle recyclers produce and collect many wastes that need to be handled, stored and disposed of carefully.

Ecology's "You Auto Recycle" campaign will include educational site visits to vehicle recycling facilities in eastern Washington. Based on a recently completed needs survey, Ecology staff are creating a booklet and a video that will be distributed as well. These tools will tell how to identify hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, will demonstrate proper handling and storage practices, and will review appropriate recycling technologies. Ecology will send the booklet and video directly to vehicle recyclers later in 1996.

For more information, contact Jan Brydsen at (509) 456-2876.

Free Info To order, call 1-800-633-7585 or (360) 407-7472.

machine shops, radiator shops, service stations, and tire dealers.

Shop Sweeps Booklets, #94-BR-09 through 14, Rev. 8/96 Specific waste management information for these automotive service specialties: auto repair, auto body, auto dealers, automotive

Step-by-Step: Fact Sheets for Hazardous Waste Generators, #91-12, Rev. 7/96 14 easy to use fact sheets to help answer your hazardous waste management questions.

Biological Testing Methods for the Designation of Dangerous Waste, #80-12, Rev. 8/96 Sets the guidelines for waste designation tests.

Safe and Proper Handling of Empty Containers, #96-431 This fact sheet details how to handle and dispose of empty containers

**Case Study:
Container-Care, Seattle**

Managers at Seattle's Container-Care know that it is far less expensive to pioneer than to attempt to play catch up when it comes to the environment and safety issues. Adopting pollution prevention strategies helps the company lower material disposal costs, reduce permit costs and other fees, and results in more efficient production. Employees now spend less time on clean-up with less risk of exposure to hazardous substances.

Specifically, Container-Care:

- ✓ Developed and patented a waste water recovery and recycling system that allows them to enjoy low water bills. Container-Care, Seattle pays no waste water fees because they have no water discharge.
 - ✓ Reduced volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions by discontinuing use of a conventional cup gun that produces excessive overspray resulting in elevated VOC emissions and waste. They now use rollers and brushes for touch-up jobs. By eliminating overspray, the company uses less product and saves money.
 - ✓ Further decreased emissions by switching to a non-hazardous solvent. The solvent is recirculated in an enclosed gun cleaning system that traps emissions.
- Container-Care, Seattle maintains a good relationship with regulators and has appreciated technical assistance visits and materials supplied by Ecology's toxics reduction staff. Company staff share their pollution prevention information at industry shows and seminars in the U.S. and Europe.

Congratulations to Container-Care, Seattle for its commitment to excellence in pollution prevention.

Container-Care Seattle's general manager Todd Sundesten and Bob Bunch, Special Projects, accept the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention from Ecology Director Mary Riveland and Governor Mike Lowry

**Leaders Rewarded:
Governor's Pollution Prevention Award Winners**

Pollution prevention helps keep Washington competitive and clean. On July 10th, Governor Mike Lowry and Ecology Director Mary Riveland presented outstanding achievement awards to nine different facilities around the state.

"The award winners have demonstrated that they can both save money and preserve our quality of life by finding and using techniques to reduce waste at the source," Governor Lowry said.

"They have also shown an overall commitment to the environment and a willingness to share their knowledge with the community." The annual awards recognize innovation, waste reductions achieved, benefits to the environment, health and safety, economic benefits and leadership. Congratulations to:

- ✘ Rainier Ballistics Corporation - Sport Shooting projectile manufacturer, Tacoma.
- ✘ Container-Care, Seattle - Storage/repair of containers, Seattle.
- ✘ Fleetwood Homes of Washington - Manufactured homes producer, Woodland.

- ✘ Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation Trentwood Works - Aluminum rolling mill, Spokane.
- ✘ McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma
- ✘ University of Washington Environmental Health and Safety Department, UW Seattle campus.
- ✘ Fluke Corporation - Continuing Excellence Award - Winner of the 1994 Governor's Award. Electronics and printed circuit board fabricator, Everett.
- ✘ Johnson Matthey Electronics - Continuing Excellence Award - Winner of the 1994 Governor's Award. Electronics manufacturing, and semiconductor metals fabrication company, Spokane.
- ✘ Tidewater Barge Lines, Inc. - Honorable Mention - Bargeline carrying fuel, grain and commodities, Vancouver.

For more information on the pollution prevention successes at these facilities, or how to apply for next year's awards, contact Bonnie Meyer at (360) 407-6740.



Questions and Answers

Q I know some shops drain gas filters into the containers they use to collect used oil. Is this okay? Does draining the gas filters into the used oil make it a hazardous waste? Would a gallon or two of gas make a tank of waste oil flammable?

A Gasoline drained from gas filters is considered a fuel product. It is not a hazardous waste if used as a fuel, rather than being disposed of, and if the generator has not previously used it for cleaning or degreasing purposes. Gasoline, or other fuels like kerosene, that meet these criteria can be added to used oil without making the mixture a hazardous waste, if the mixture is ultimately burned for energy recovery. However, it may be safer to keep these waste-streams separate until your used oil hauler makes a pickup.

Gasoline, kerosene and other fuels used for cleaning and degreasing are usually considered hazardous wastes when spent. They cannot be mixed with used oil. They should be sent off-site to a permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facility.

A mixture of gas and oil can be

very flammable. Since gas is lighter than oil, gas will form a layer on top of the oil. Readily-ignitable gas vapors are heavier than air and tend to stay close to the floor. If these vapors find an ignition source, they can act as a wick, flashing back to the storage container and causing the oil to burn. Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before adding gasoline to your used oil.

Adapted from The IRAC Newsletter, April 1996.

NORTHWEST WASTE INFORMATION EXPO '96

WIN Expo Update

The date for the annual Northwest Waste Information Network Expo has been changed. The Expo will be held October 29-30th at the Seattle Exhibition Hall. For more information call Laurel Tomchick at (206) 689-3063.

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: (206) 649-7000

Lacey: (360) 407-6300

Yakima: (509) 575-2490

Spokane: (509) 456-2926

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Shoptalk

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