



ShopTalk

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A quarterly publication for hazardous waste generators

Stormwater Permit Assistance Visits Help Businesses

Businesses throughout the state are pleased with the way Ecology staff have been helping them learn about proper stormwater management. Some businesses have been shown how to eliminate the need for a stormwater permit.

The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Project evolved in response to a request by the Independent Business Association. The project focuses on helping businesses become more aware of on-site sources that can contaminate stormwater.

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or snow that flows across the ground and pavement. A business must obtain a storm water discharge permit, costing \$291, if:

- ✓ Its activities fall within a specific set of Standard Industrial Classification codes, and
- ✓ It discharges stormwater to surface water, or
- ✓ It discharges stormwater to a stormwater sewer that leads to surface water.

Technical Assistance Visits

Ecology staff trained in pollution prevention are visiting sites to provide one to two hours of technical assistance. The visit begins with a walk around the site to see areas where products and wastes are managed and handled, and where exposure to the elements could cause a pollution problem. At the end of the visit staff provide a site evaluation form that lists observations and suggested best management practices. Suggested practices include:

- ✓ Use tarps to cover products and wastes
- ✓ Move products and wastes undercover or indoors
- ✓ Form a pollution prevention team
- ✓ Maintain good housekeeping
- ✓ Schedule and perform preventive maintenance
- ✓ Practice spill control and clean up
- ✓ Schedule regular inspections.

To schedule a visit contact your Ecology Regional Office.

Who May Avoid Permits?

Businesses in certain Standard Industrial Classification categories, known as "Category 11" may be able to remove the requirement for a stormwater permit by employing best management practices.

Category 11 businesses include light manufacturing, food products, wood kitchen cabinets, general warehousing and storage. These businesses do not require a stormwater permit if they can eliminate exposure of hazardous wastes and products to rain and stormwater.



At Tacoma Public Utilities Steam Plant Number 2, mechanical engineer, Dan Rottler stands outside a bioswale (wetland), one of three stages of stormwater purification used on-site. The system continuously filters water adjusting to both wet and dry weather and eliminates the need for expensive water testing

Inside

New Counting Regs	2
Fertilizer Regulations	2
Protect Water Quality	2
Case Study: Wrap Pack Corporation	3
Learning and Hiring Opportunities	3
Questions & Answers	4
1998 Governor's Award	4

New Counting Regulations

The Department of Ecology adopted three new changes related to counting dangerous wastes in determining generator status. They can be found in WAC 173-303-070(7)(c). The simplest change says that wastes managed under the Universal Waste Rule are not counted. This is now limited to batteries and mercury thermostats being managed as universal waste.

Another new counting rule says that wastes managed immediately upon generation and only in on-site permit-by-rule (PBR) units are not counted. In the past, wastes going to PBR units were counted. PBR units are elementary neutralization units, totally enclosed treatment facilities, and wastewater treatment units. A key term in this provision is **immediately**, which means the waste must directly enter a PBR unit as soon as it is generated. There is no temporary storage or accumulation of waste allowed between the point of generation and the PBR unit.

The last of the new counting changes states that wastes recycled on-site, without being stored or accumulated in a recycling process subject to Section 120(4)(a) of the Dangerous Waste Regulations, are not counted. In the past, these wastes were counted. "Without prior storage or accumulation" means that as soon as the waste is generated, it immediately enters the recycling unit. In most cases it means that piping connects the system. Wastes cannot be carried in buckets, for example, between the point of generation and the recycling unit. Many silver recyclers may benefit by using this counting change which may lower their generator status.

Stronger Regulation of Fertilizers

Some fertilizers and soil additives used to grow food crops in Washington contain heavy metals and dioxins. The State responded to citizen concerns that some of these constituents are potentially toxic and could find their way into the food we eat.

In March, Washington became the first state to enact a law limiting the amount of heavy metals allowed in fertilizer products. This level may be adjusted pending the results of an 18-month study to examine the amount of heavy metals that food crops absorb from soils.

Beginning July 1999, fertilizer sold in this state must have ingredients listed on an Internet website. All fertilizers will be labeled with the website address.

In advising the Legislature to regulate fertilizers, the State Departments of Agriculture and Ecology tested 55 fertilizers for metal content. Some of the natural and waste-derived fertilizers contained arsenic, cadmium and lead. The researchers also tested three waste-derived fertilizers and found dioxins. The dioxin findings require additional testing before a recommendation can be made.

State health, environment, agriculture and worker safety experts developed the proposed legislation after consulting with a citizen advisory panel that represented agriculture, the fertilizer industry, environmentalists and farm workers. Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons adds, "The smart thing to do is encourage fertilizer companies to seek out the cleanest sources of raw materials they can find."

Protect Our Water Quality at

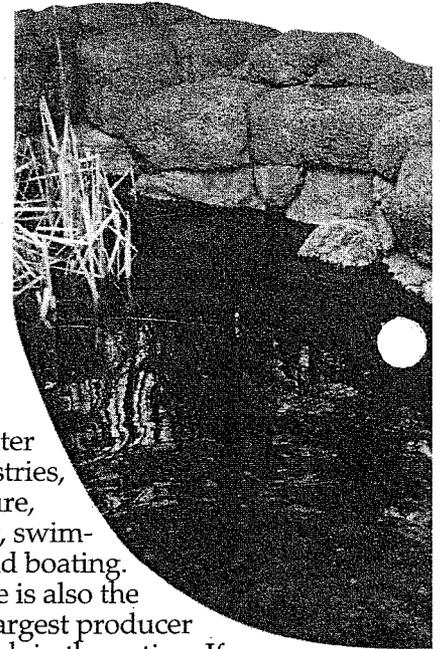
Each of us, in our own way, impacts the quality of water in the watershed where we live. The combined effect of our many small actions result in over half the pollution in our water today.

Salmon and other fish in Washington waters are sensitive to tiny amounts of pollutants. Their bodies cannot adjust to temperature changes or contaminants. Water pollution is one of the reasons so many of our native fish are declining and may be in danger of extinction.

Washington's economy is dependent on clean water for industries, agriculture, drinking, swimming, and boating. Our State is also the second largest producer of shellfish in the nation. If we are more careful we can help our waters recover.

Water pollution can be caused by stormwater run-off. Water that doesn't soak into the ground -- whether from rain, snowmelt, paved surfaces, farming operations, car-washing, or leaking pipes - is called run-off. The run-off carries whatever it picks up along the way, including grease and oil, chemical spills, pet waste, fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. What washes away does not simply disappear. It flows downstream into rivers, lakes, bays, and ground water.

Water quality can also be protected by not disposing toxic



elo Save A Salmon Too

chemicals down the drain. Sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, and storm drains do not adequately treat most toxins sending much of it into the environment untreated. The types of hazardous waste that businesses can discharge to a sewage treatment plant are very restricted, and require a special permit to be in compliance.

To help prevent harmful polluted run-off:

- ✓ Use nontoxic products for cleaning.
- ✓ Use biodegradable and phosphate free products.
- ✓ Use only enough of the product to get the job done.
- ✓ Store hazardous products in areas that don't flood.
- ✓ Sweep your driveway—

don't hose built-up toxic substances and heavy metals into ground or surface run-off.

- ✓ Dispose of hazardous waste/containers according to the Dangerous Waste Regulations.
- ✓ Fix oil leaks on cars and trucks.
- ✓ Pick up your pet waste; flush it down the toilet.
- ✓ Protect stream banks with native vegetation that helps prevent erosion.
- ✓ Consider alternatives to chemical pesticides and herbicides.
- ✓ Use fertilizers sparingly.

For more information talk to a hazardous waste specialist at your local Ecology office.

Case Study: Wrap Pack Corporation

Wrap Pack Corporation is a major producer of fruit tissue wrap in the United States. Wrap Pack prints and cuts paper to wrap fruit, primarily pears and apples. In 1997, Wrap Pack received a Governor's Pollution Prevention Award.

Wrap Pack's headquarters has been in Yakima since 1990, with another plant in Florida. "The difference in the state regulatory climates is striking," says company owner, Steve Almaier. "Wrap Pack received outstanding help and support from the Department of Ecology, Yakima Waste Systems Incorporated, the Department of Labor and Industries and the Yakima Fire Department," added Almaier.

Wrap Pack's first attempt at pollution prevention resulted in successful elimination of the use of VOC-emitting cleaning agents. As they examined other wastestreams, lubrication oil handling practices were changed. Wrap Pack now uses drip pans and felt pads to collect drips and spills, instead of granular absorbents. The felt pads are reused after they are wrung out with a custom built wringer similar to old-fashioned laundry wringers. The oil that is collected is recycled through the Yakima County Moderate Risk Waste Program.

Nearly 100% of paper waste is recycled, diverting over 80,000 pounds per year from the local landfill. Wood pallets are renovated on-site as time allows, saving about 400 pallets per year. These changes cost nothing and save the company about \$7,600 per year.

According to Almaier, the most important gain from eliminating VOCs from the plant is worker safety. Wrap Pack's efforts to improve worker safety and reduce pollution have made Wrap Pack a better place to work.

Learning and Hiring Opportunities

Thanks to the new Environmental Competencies being offered to vocational education students, it may be easier for you to hire someone with hazardous waste know-how or gain marketable skills yourself. The Environmental Competencies are a set of guidance pamphlets for instructors who teach students about environmental issues and management before they leave school and head for the workplace. Students learn about important issues such as properly managing hazardous wastes, worker safety, and keeping wastes out of the environment.

Environmental Competencies were specially prepared for five vocational areas:

- ✓ Automotive Repair
- ✓ Auto Body Repair
- ✓ Dental Assisting
- ✓ Photography/X-Ray Developing
- ✓ Woodworking/Carpentry

The competencies are approved by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. They were prepared after technical assistance "School Sweeps" visits to every community and technical college. The 1996/1997 visits assessed hazardous waste management and other environmental issues on campus. Schools received written recommendations to help them make corrections. The colleges were cooperative and welcomed the opportunity to clean up their campuses and improve waste management.

After receiving School Sweeps advice, at least 12,000 bottles of old and unusable chemicals were removed from college labs around the state, and thousands of pounds of hazardous waste were removed from the colleges. Wastes that were being improperly managed by disposal to the sewer or landfill are now being properly managed. Campuses are now safer for students and staff, and the colleges have become better environmental stewards.

Questions and Answers

Q I am confused about batteries. How should I manage them after I'm done with them?

A Keep all batteries organized separately since some batteries, such as nickel cadmium, can be recycled if they are not mixed in with different types of batteries. Lead acid batteries for cars should be managed separately. All other batteries that designate as hazardous waste should be managed as universal waste. This includes the following types of batteries: nickel-cadmium, alkaline, mercuric-oxide, alkaline-manganese, zinc-carbon, button cell mercuric-oxide, silver oxide and lithium.

The Universal Waste Rule states that batteries:

- ✓ Must be taken to a recycling, treatment, storage, and/or disposal facility.
- ✓ Must be labeled clearly as universal waste.
- ✓ Must be managed to prevent releases of hazardous waste to the environment and managed to prevent spills.
- ✓ May be accumulated for up to one year.
- ✓ Do not have to be manifested or counted.

Win the Governor's Award

Ecology invites business and government leaders to apply for the 1998 Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention. A panel of judges will look for organizations who: are environmentally conscious; use innovative methods to reduce emissions of hazardous wastes; have gone beyond traditional treatment, control, and disposal of wastes; or have pioneered sustainability and/or shown environmental commitment through energy and water conservation. Winners will be honored at an awards ceremony during Pollution Prevention Week in September. Applications are due in early June. For more information call your local Ecology regional office, or Bonnie Meyer at (360) 407-6740.

Free Information

Call Ecology's Publication Office at (360) 407-7472 or 1-800-633-7585 for:

- ✓ *Controlling Metals and Dioxins in Fertilizers* #98-1251-HWTR
- ✓ *School Sweeps Campaign Final Report* #97-438
- ✓ *Step-by-Step Guide to Better Lab Management* #97-431
- ✓ *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Planning for Industrial Facilities* #WQ-R-93-015

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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E-mail address: bmey461@ecy.wa.gov

Production Team: *Marnie Black, Bonnie Meyer, Dave Zink, Cathy Bouge, Joan Morris*
Technical Editor: *Chipper Hervieux*
Contributors: *Helen Pressley, Tom Cusack, Patricia Jatczak, Jim Pearson, Bonnie Meyer, Chris Chapman*
Distribution/Mailing List Changes: *Cathy Bouge (360) 407-6719*

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