



ShopTalk

Summer 1999  
Vol. 9, No. 3

A quarterly publication for hazardous waste generators

## What Can Your Service Company Do for You?

A business owner wanted to get rid of 400 drums of hazardous waste. He asked an environmental firm to estimate the cost to have the waste properly handled, transported and disposed of. The estimate was \$150,000. The man balked at this price and looked for other options. He found someone who said they could dispose of the waste for one third of the original estimate and he hired them on the spot.

Several months later, Ecology was alerted to a large pile of abandoned drums in a remote area. It turned out that the abandoned drums belonged to the individual who had hired the low-cost service provider. The person who thought he had saved a lot of money wound up paying a \$1.5 million fine and spending time in jail because he failed to meet generator requirements. The service provider was also fined for illegally transporting hazardous waste. The moral of the story: Know where your waste is, who is handling it, and most importantly, check your service provider's qualifications.

### What Services are Available?

You are responsible for determining whether your waste is hazardous or nonhazardous using a

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process called designation. You are also required to prepare your waste for transport. To meet these requirements, you can hire a service company. Service companies can be contracted to perform some or all of the following tasks.

- ✓ Test and designate your waste
- ✓ Determine your generator status
- ✓ Identify waste reduction opportunities
- ✓ Complete manifests and Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) forms
- ✓ Package waste into Department of Transportation (DOT) spec containers
- ✓ Transport your waste to a permitted Treatment, Storage, Disposal or Recycling facility (TSDF)
- ✓ Be readily available to assist you.

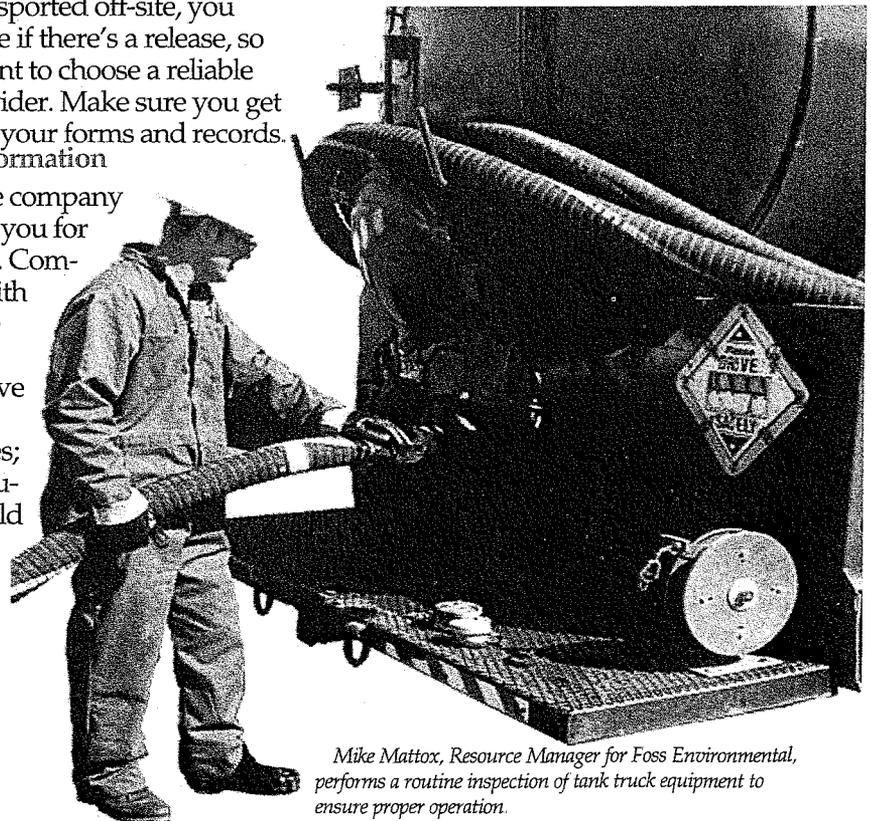
Remember: even after a shipment is transported off-site, you remain liable if there's a release, so it is important to choose a reliable service provider. Make sure you get copies of all your forms and records. Provide Information

Your service company depends on you for information. Communicate with your service company representative on all waste stream issues; poor communication could cause your service company to manage your waste improperly.

### Check Qualifications

Get information about a service company before you hire them. Make sure their employees understand how to apply hazardous waste regulations to your waste generation activities. Find out how many customers they serve and whether they have experience with your particular type of waste. Make sure that the company has liability insurance and their transport vehicles are licensed and permitted.

Ecology can provide you with a Hazardous Waste Services Directory (call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 or send an e-mail to [dzin461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dzin461@ecy.wa.gov)), but does not offer specific recommendations about which service company to use. You can get information about the compliance status of individual service companies by calling your local Ecology regional office.



Mike Mattox, Resource Manager for Foss Environmental, performs a routine inspection of tank truck equipment to ensure proper operation.

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## Retail Stores Reminded to Properly Dispose of Wastes

After several chemical releases occurred at retail home-improvement stores across Washington, officials at the Department of Ecology are calling on store personnel to improve their awareness about how to properly handle hazardous wastes and how to report chemical spills.

In April, a home-improvement store in Tacoma allowed 20 to 80 gallons of roof-shake treatment chemicals to get into a storm drain after the product containers were crushed when stacked under a heavy pallet. The product contained a pesticide that is deadly to fish and aquatic life. Fortunately, Ecology received a tip about the incident, and the chemical was cleaned up before it could reach a nearby lake. The store was fined \$6,000 for the unreported release, and managers were asked to evaluate their internal training, material management, hazard recognition and spill reporting.

In March, Ecology was notified that white paint had been washed into a storm drain at a store in Kirkland. A shopping cart loaded with damaged, leaking cans was found outside the store. Ecology issued no penalty for the incident and the paint was cleaned up.

Two years ago, Ecology fined an Eastern Washington store \$53,000 for improperly disposing of pool chemicals and other flammable, toxic and corrosive wastes in a dumpster. A chemical fire resulted, releasing chlorine gas that required the evacuation of the store.

"Home-improvement stores sell many products that can be very hazardous if not handled properly," said Brett Manning, a hazardous-waste specialist with Ecology. "We want store employees and consumers to understand that hazardous wastes should not be mixed together, and they cannot be put in a dumpster or a garbage can."

For information on how to handle and dispose of hazardous waste properly call Ecology at 800-633-7585. To report a spill, call the nearest fire department and the nearest Department of Ecology office at the numbers shown on the back page.

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## You Auto Recycle

Promoting environment-friendly practices at auto-wrecking yards is the focus of the "You Auto Recycle" campaign underway throughout central and eastern Washington. Ecology staff from the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program are working closely with the Automotive Recyclers of Washington (AROW) on this project.

A few simple facts about the industry illustrate the critical role auto recyclers play in creating a cleaner and greener future for Washington State:

- ✓ Nationwide, approximately 11 million vehicles are recycled every year, about 200,000 are recycled right here in Washington State.
- ✓ Automotive recyclers provide nearly 40 percent of all recycled steel (the most recycled metal) in America.
- ✓ Recycled auto parts reduce the need to manufacture new replacement parts, and that leads to significant reductions in air and water pollution.
- ✓ As much as 75 percent of each vehicle handled by auto recyclers is recycled, and auto recyclers are working with auto makers to ensure that cars of the future are even more recyclable.
- ✓ Auto recyclers help conserve diminishing landfill space and keep highways and roads clear of abandoned and disabled vehicles. Finding new uses for old cars and old car parts is a valuable service provided by auto recyclers. Ecology's campaign goes a step further by showing auto wreckers how to safely collect vehicle fluids, handle old batteries, and avoid spills and accidents at the work site.

The "You Auto Recycle" campaign resulted in distribution of 500 vehicle recycling videos and manuals and several workshops. To receive a free copy of the manual and/or video, call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 or send an e-mail to [dzin461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dzin461@ecy.wa.gov).

In the next phase of the project, Ecology staff will work with county moderate risk waste coordinators to provide on-site technical assistance to vehicle recyclers in central and eastern Washington.

For more information on auto recycling, contact Ecology's Central Regional Office at (509) 575-2477 or Eastern Regional Office at (509) 456-6170, or Automotive Recyclers of Washington at (206) 767-3149.

*The automotive industry is the nation's largest consumer of raw materials. Over 60% of the oil, 50% of the rubber, 65% of the iron, 50% of carpeting and 20% of all electronics and aluminum produced in the U.S. each year ends up in our cars and trucks.*  
*(From the Sustainable Business Network)*



## Salmon Homecoming Forum in Seattle - September 9 & 10

The Salmon Homecoming Forum is part of the Salmon Homecoming Celebration held annually in September. Salmon Homecoming takes place on the Seattle Waterfront and features Native American dances, storytelling and art that celebrates the annual return of salmon to our streams and rivers.

The Forum includes tribal and government representatives, business people, volunteers, landowners, elected officials and others who gather to consider ways to ensure we have plenty of salmon to celebrate in the future. As part of the Salmon Homecoming Celebration, the Forum strives to increase awareness of tribal restoration efforts and the importance of salmon to tribes. The goal is to build bridges between Indian and non-Indian communities on salmon restoration efforts.

For additional information, call Susanne Hindle at (360) 993-1950 or e-mail

## 1998 Governor's Award Winner: Ace Galvanizing

Ace Galvanizing, Incorporated in Seattle employs 50 people to take oily, rusty pieces of steel and iron, and return them coated with zinc to protect them from corrosion. Galvanizing can be a "dirty" process, but Ace found better ways to produce the desired results. They modified their process with new equipment and chemicals. Ace switched from hydrochloric acid to sulfuric acid with a sulfuric acid recovery system. They also installed a filter washing system which reduced disposal of spent filter cartridges by 95%. In addition, they converted the linings of all of their process tanks from wood to PVC because the wood linings needed changing every few years and had to be treated as hazardous waste. These changes resulted in an 85% reduction in waste shipments from 1993 to 1997.

Ace Galvanizing also reduced its water and energy use by installing a high efficiency boiler and air compressor. The company began to reuse rinse water as make-up water for its process tanks, and installed a rainwater collection and reuse system. These systems allow Ace to save 10,000 gallons of water each week!

At Ace, management provides the initiative for change. For instance, Ace's management requires approval before new chemicals are brought into the plant. This helps to discourage a casual attitude toward chemical usage and encourages proper attention to safety and environmental concerns.

Ace Galvanizing applied ingenuity and perseverance to do the job using less toxic chemicals and water, thus protecting their employees' health and the environment. Ace's accomplishments were recognized when they won the 1998 Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention. General Manager, Mike Buckland, said that the Governor's Award puts the emphasis on "the positive rather than the negative, - which gives businesses an incentive to keep looking for ways to improve."

## Help for Property Managers

If you manage property that is rented for office, commercial, or industrial use, your tenants might be generating hazardous waste. Do you know what types of waste are being generated at your rental property? What would you do if you "inherited" waste from a departed tenant? Do your tenants have the information they need to manage their waste properly?

Helpful information is available in "Property Managers Problem Waste Fact Sheets" - created by Ecology with assistance from the King County Hazardous Waste Program. This easy-to-read packet contains numerous fact sheets covering the following topics:

- ✓ Common wastes generated are identified on the *Problem Waste Checklist*
- ✓ Vendors of environmental services are listed in the *Hazardous Waste Services Directory for Property Managers in Washington State*
- ✓ Proper management of the following types of wastes are covered on individual fact sheets:
  - Asbestos
  - Abandoned and "Unknown" Wastes
  - Antifreeze
  - Contaminated Sites and Soils
  - Cleaners, Detergents, Disinfectants
  - Used Fluorescent Light Ballasts
  - Used Fluorescent Tubes
  - Freon (CFCs)
  - Leftover Paint
  - Lead-based Paint
  - Solvents
  - Stormwater and Grit
  - Underground Tanks
  - Used Oil

To receive a free copy of the Property Managers Problem Waste Fact Sheets, call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 or send an e-mail to [dzin461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dzin461@ecy.wa.gov).

## Hazardous Waste Reduced by 78 Million Pounds

Pollution prevention assistance by the Washington Department of Ecology helped businesses across the state cut the amount of hazardous waste produced by 78 million pounds from 1992 to 1997.

"This is a success story with multiple benefits," said Greg Sorlie, who manages Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program. "We've kept a lot of really hazardous stuff out of the environment, we've avoided the need to build more treatment plants and landfills, and also reduced the amount of hazardous waste being hauled on our highways."

As a result of the Pollution Prevention Planning Act of 1990, Ecology provides technical assistance to businesses that generate hazardous waste, using funds collected from the Pollution Prevention Planning fee. Facilities that generate at least 2,640 pounds of waste per year are required to participate in pollution prevention planning. Of course, businesses of any size can get help from Ecology to make a pollution prevention plan.

"We hear from a lot of facilities that are proud of the success they have achieved by implementing elements of their pollution prevention plans," Sorlie said. "Besides protecting the environment, these projects often save money, improve worker safety and, of course, make companies better neighbors in their communities."

Ecology staff consult with businesses and make suggestions about process improvements, better equipment, using less toxic products, and using smaller amounts of hazardous substances in production. All together, these efforts cut wastes significantly.

"Ecology made us aware of what was attainable and assisted us in making fundamental changes in how we operate," said Bob James, technical director with Industrial Plating Corp. in Seattle. "From 1995 to 1998, we reduced our wastewater discharge by 7.5 million gallons due to managerial control and water reuse. .... saving us \$52,500."

## Questions and Answers:

**Q** How do I know if my container is "empty"? When can I throw it in the garbage?

**A** To find out which rules apply to containers which held hazardous products, you must follow the designation procedures listed in the State Dangerous Waste Regulations, WAC 173-303-070. The following recommendations are based upon the Dangerous Waste Regulations; you should also refer to fire code and Department of Transportation rules, to find out if there are other requirements.

To be considered "empty" containers which held pesticides or materials that would designate as acutely hazardous waste or toxic extremely hazardous waste (EHW) must be triple rinsed.

For other hazardous material containers, state regulations require first that you carefully remove all the contents that you can by practical means. Then, confirm that any residue is either less than one inch or three percent of the original capacity (whichever is less). Only after taking these precautions may the container be considered "empty." Otherwise the container and all its contents must be managed as dangerous waste. To get containers as empty as possible:

- ✓ Use a spatula or scraper to get contents out of containers, if waste contents are thick or gooey. (If it was ice cream, how empty would you get that container? Paint costs more than ice cream, so try to use it all!)
- ✓ Invert boxes and bags containing dry solid material, and shake or strike the bottom of the container.

All containers are regulated for their contents until they're properly emptied. After that, containers are considered to be a newly generated material. Check with your supplier to see if you can send empties back for refilling; if you can do so, the containers are not considered a waste. If it is not possible to return the containers, your next best option is to recycle them. Disposing of your empty containers in the dumpster should be your *last* option.

If partially full containers frequently end up as waste, consider buying smaller packages. When you select products for purchase, plan ahead and think about buying the proper quantity and how you will empty and dispose of the container.

Tips for managing empty containers:

- ✓ Label containers as "empty."
- ✓ Replace bungs so that the container is closed.
- ✓ Stack on sides if storing outdoors, so they don't fill with rainwater.

*If you have a question that you would like to see answered in Shoptalk's Question and Answer section, contact Joanne Phillipson by phone at (360) 407-6740, by fax at (360) 407-6715, or by E-mail at [joph461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:joph461@ecy.wa.gov)*

*Are you interested in receiving Shoptalk electronically? If so, please send your e-mail address along with your name and mailing address to [sohu461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sohu461@ecy.wa.gov)*

## 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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## Shoptalk

Shoptalk is produced quarterly by the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program, Washington State Department of Ecology (360) 407-6740  
E-mail address: [joph461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:joph461@ecy.wa.gov)  
Editor: Joanne Phillipson  
Production Team: Cathy Bouge, Joan Morris  
Technical Editor: Chipper Hervieux  
Contributors: Jan Brydsen, Jerry French, David Hohmann, Dennis Johnson, Dave Misko, Peggy Morgan, Joanne Phillipson,  
Distribution/Mailing List Changes: Cathy Bouge (360) 407-6719 e-mail address: [cbou461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cbou461@ecy.wa.gov)

Shoptalk is run on an alcohol-free press using vegetable-based inks. Our paper has 50% recycled content, with 20% post-consumer waste.



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Washington State  
Department of Printing

Washington State  
Department of Ecology  
Hazardous Waste and  
Toxics Reduction Program  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600