

PAINTBOOTH FILTERS



Thurston County Business Pollution Prevention Program

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Small changes
make a
BIG 
difference!

MANAGING YOUR PAINT BOOTH

Paint booths are used to protect the quality of the air we breathe. What many business owners don't realize is that the filters may be a source of pollution as well.

Depending on the type of products a business uses, it is common for paint filters to collect toxic metals such as cadmium, chromium, and lead in paint pigments or other coatings. Some filters may even contain halogenated organic compounds (HOCs). These contaminants can cause the filters to designate as a dangerous waste. Throwing away the filters with the regular solid waste may violate the Thurston County Nonpoint Source Pollution Ordinance, and several other federal and state laws. Irresponsible disposal can also lead to contaminated drinking water that may affect your community and your family.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Test your filters.

If you operate a paint booth you must determine if the used filters designate as a dangerous waste (pursuant to WAC 173-303). Sending a sample of the paint booth filters to a state certified environmental lab for analytical testing could prove that they are not dangerous waste. When sending the filter sample the following tests are recommended:

- ◆ SW-846 Method 1311 for Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) for metals will determine if the waste needs to be labeled with a Federal waste code (D004-D008).
- ◆ SW-846 Method 9023 for Halogenated Organic Compounds (HOCs) will determine if the waste needs to be labeled with a Washington State waste code (WP01 or WP02).

NOTE: If you suspect additional hazards then you may want to conduct additional testing or adjust the management of the material accordingly. More information can be found at:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Dangerous-waste-guidance/Common-dangerous-waste/Paints-coatings>

If the lab results show that the filter does not meet the criteria of a dangerous waste, then the filters may be disposed of with the regular solid waste but keep a record of the lab results.

PROPER MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL

Lab results will show whether the filters are a dangerous waste. If so, you should make sure that the waste is properly managed. The following actions are recommended:

- ◆ Separate dangerous waste from the solid waste.
- ◆ Properly label dangerous waste filter containers
- ◆ Properly dispose of material as a dangerous waste.

If the lab results show that the filters qualify as dangerous waste, they should be disposed of by either a licensed vendor or at Thurston County HazoHouse. HazoHouse accepts dangerous waste from both households and businesses (for a fee). HazoHouse only accepts waste from businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of dangerous waste per month. If a business generates more than 220 pounds of dangerous waste per month then it would qualify as a Medium Quantity Generator and will need to hire a vendor for disposal. Businesses are asked to call in advance to set up disposal appointments prior to arriving (360-860-2912). HazoHouse is located at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2420 Hogum Bay Rd NE Lacey, WA.

For additional information:

- ◆ Email PHSSPollutionPrevention@co.thurston.wa.us
- ◆ Visit our website at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw/index.html

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