



Auto Body/Collision Repair

Hazardous Waste Determination: Managing Leftover Paint

Hazardous waste determinations of all wastes are the responsibility of the generator.

Most auto body paint contains lead, chromium, barium, xylene, and benzene. Depending on the concentration of these ingredients, leftover paint may exhibit hazardous waste characteristics. As a waste generator, there are options for managing leftover paint:

OPTION ONE : ▶▶ (Use as product)

- Reuse as primer or basecoat
- Give to the customer for touch-ups

OPTION TWO : ▶▶ (Hazardous waste)

- Manage as a hazardous waste –
 - No need to test
 - Notify with the Department of Environmental Services as a Small Quantity Generator
 - Store paint in a container labeled “hazardous waste”, list the contents of the container on the label and store container on an impervious surface such as cement
 - If storing outside, the hazardous waste container must be under cover and have secondary containment
 - Keep container closed when not in use – do not allow to air dry
 - Call registered hazardous waste hauler for disposal
 - Use correct waste code and save documentation

OPTION THREE : ▶▶ (Paint is mixed with waste gun cleaning thinner or solvent)

- Manage as hazardous waste – see OPTION TWO
- Allowing gun cleaner thinner or waste paint to evaporate is prohibited
- Review Environmental Data Sheet (EDS) to determine waste code. The waste code could be D001, F003, and/or F005.

OPTION FOUR : ▶▶ (Is the waste paint hazardous?)

- Conduct a hazardous waste determination –
 - Review EDS to see if there are any ingredients that match the contaminants on the Hazardous Waste Characteristic List (D-List).
 - If there are no matching ingredients and you, as the generator of this waste, determine that it is not hazardous*, the waste paint can be managed as solid waste – documentation is required.

*(*Note: This is only applicable if the paint has not been mixed with gun cleaning solvent, thinner or activator. Some ready to use paint has been “thinned down” with solvent to ensure proper flow through the spray gun.)*

- If there is a matching ingredient on the D-List, you can manage it as hazardous waste or have the waste paint tested at an [environmental laboratory](#) to determine if the toxicity levels are equal to or exceed the maximum allowable limits on the D-List.
(Be sure to ask for the TCLP test)
 - If the test shows the amounts are below the allowable level, the waste paint can be managed as solid waste – documentation is required.
 - If the test shows levels above the limit allowed, it must be managed as hazardous waste (see OPTION TWO)

Hazardous waste determination must be completed again if the generator changes product lines or if the product formula changes.

For questions on hazardous waste determinations, contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance Section at (603) 271-2942 or hwcomp@des.nh.gov.

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