
AUTO BODY/COLLISION REPAIR GUIDANCE

Hazardous Waste Determination of Waste Paint Filters

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

Most auto body paint contains heavy metals, such as lead, chromium and barium. There are two options for determining if waste paint filters should be managed as a hazardous waste.

- 1) Use generator knowledge.
 - a) Review material safety data sheets (MSDS) of all coatings.
 - b) Review the ingredients on MSDS. Are any of the ingredients these metals: arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium or silver? While the MSDS may not specify one metal, the coating may contain lead chromate, lead chromate molybdate or barium sulfate.
 - c) If none of the ingredients on the MSDS contains any of those metals and you determine that your waste is non-hazardous, you should:
 - i) Document how you determined that the waste paint filters are non-hazardous waste, including signature and date.
 - ii) Save the document in your files.
 - iii) Manage the waste paint filters as solid waste (trash).

- 2) If an ingredient on the MSDS has arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium or silver, the waste paint filters can be managed as hazardous waste or tested to determine if it is hazardous. If you decide to test the filters:
 - a) Request a TCLP test of the eight metals from an environmental laboratory. Call a couple of labs for a quote. A list of labs is available at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwcb/documents/labs_hw.pdf.
 - b) Compare the test results to the maximum concentration/regulatory level: arsenic 5.0 ppm, barium 100.0 ppm, cadmium 1.0 ppm, chromium 5.0 ppm, lead 5.0 ppm, mercury 0.2 ppm, selenium 1.0 ppm, silver 5.0 ppm.
 - i) If the results are at or greater than the regulatory limit, the waste paint filters must be managed as a hazardous waste.
 - ii) If the results are less than the regulatory limit, the waste paint filters can be managed as a solid waste.
 - c) Save the test results in your files.

Do not intentionally spray waste paint, waste clear coat, waste gun cleaning solvents or any other coating, thinner, or material into the paint filters.

Please be aware that the MSDS is not required to list a hazardous constituent if it is less than 1% of the composition, or if the hazardous constituent is a carcinogen *and* is less than 0.1% of the composition. So, although MSDSs are useful for hazardous waste determinations, further review may be needed. In addition, any changes in the product line or if the product formula changes, a hazardous waste determination must be completed again.

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