



## **Auto Body/Collision Repair Guidance** **Options for Managing Leftover Paint**

**Hazardous waste determinations of all wastes are the responsibility of the generator/auto body shop.**

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.
  - Register 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 : ▶▶ (Hazardous waste)**

- Paint is mixed with waste gun cleaning thinner or solvent.
  - Manage as hazardous waste – see OPTION TWO
  - Waste code will be F003 and/or F005.
  - Allowing gun cleaner thinner or waste paint to evaporate is prohibited.

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

- Conduct a hazardous waste determination.
  - Review Material Safety Data Sheets\* (MSDS) 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.

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\* Please be aware that the MSDS is not required to list a hazardous waste constituent if less than 1% (i.e., 10,000 ppm) of the composition (or 0.1% (i.e., 1,000 ppm) if the hazardous waste constituent is a carcinogen). So although MSDSs are very useful for hazardous waste determinations, further review may be needed to ensure that the waste paint is not hazardous waste. You can also request more information from the paint manufacturer.

**\*\*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 a laboratory to determine if the toxicity levels are equal to or exceed the maximum allowable limits on the D-List. Below is a link to the list of qualified labs:  
[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwcb/documents/labs\\_hw.pdf](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwcb/documents/labs_hw.pdf). (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](mailto:hwcomp@des.nh.gov).