

Auto Body Shops Pollution Prevention Tip Sheet

Waste Streams Generated

Paint waste
Paint thinner waste
Paint stripping waste (sand, plastic beads, chemicals, etc.)
Solids/filter cakes from recycling machines

Pollution Prevention/Waste Minimization Tips

Recycling and Reuse of Auto Body Shop Wastes

- a) If possible, use a computerized paint mixing system that eliminates human mixing errors and produces accurate pours every time
- b) Use disposable cup liners that can be thrown away after a job so paint guns don't have to be cleaned.

This is an example of a paint cup liner unit used at a Wyoming facility that uses a disposable plastic liner.



- c) Use a solvent distillation unit that recycles a solvent whereby the solvent can be reused 4-5 times. An example of a solvent distillation unit being used at a Wyoming facility



- d) If disposable cup liners are not used and paint dries in the paint cup, don't use thinner to dissolve the paint but scrape it out
- e) Use a high volume/low pressure (HVLV) paint gun which saves paint, increases quality and reduces emissions

This is an example of a paint gun washer unit being used at an auto body shop in Wyoming.



- f) Make sure air pressure is properly regulated in guns and when spraying, keep the gun perpendicular to the surface, maintaining the correct distance
- g) Instead of chemical strippers, use mechanical paint stripping methods (i.e., plastic bead blasting) where the beads and paint can be recovered and separated and are then re-fed into the gun
- h) Use a downdraft paint spray booth (i.e., filtered air enters at booth ceiling, flows around car at 80 fpm, and exits through floor through filters) that greatly reduces paint over spray that workers breathe and produces lower amounts of paint over spray

- i) Combine all like colors into a container for recycle/reuse as a foundation paint coat that can be applied over the sealer and under the base coat color, requiring good coverage and reducing the total number of color coats required

Bibliography

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