Hazardous Waste & Auto Body Shops

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Los Angeles County Fire Dept., HHMD, CUPA, REHS

- Performed **thousands of HHMD hazardous waste, hazardous material inspections** including autobody operations.
- Delivered **HHMD technical training/presentations** to new hires, CUPA forum on waste management topics.

Agenda

Hazardous Waste (HW), your shop may be generating
See if through an Inspector's Lense

How do I know if it's hazardous waste?

Is paint hazardous?
But what if its oil based, water based, liquid, dry?

What are other potentially hazardous waste stream in your shop
Solvents, primer, lacquer, booth filters, clear coat, etc.…

Other items to consider
Reduce HW, container management and recordkeeping

Where to dispose my HW

Does your auto body shop/collision do the following?

- Restores vehicles after minor or major collisions
- Repairs dents and scratches
- Restores paint and repaints to match vehicle’s color
- Replaces bumpers, damaged body panels, and other components

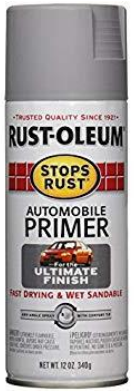
Do you use products such as these?

Lacquer Thinner

Clear Coat

Paint

Primer



Acetone

Are you generating hazardous waste?

Ignitable
Flash point <140°F: paints, solvents, lacquer, gun cleaner waste

Toxic
Contains metals (Cd, Cr, Pb, Cu, Ba, Ni, Zn) or toxic organics

Corrosive
Acidic/alkaline cleaning solutions and battery acid have pH <2 or >12.5

Reactive / Listed
Unstable chemicals like peroxides or F-listed solvent wastes from degreasing

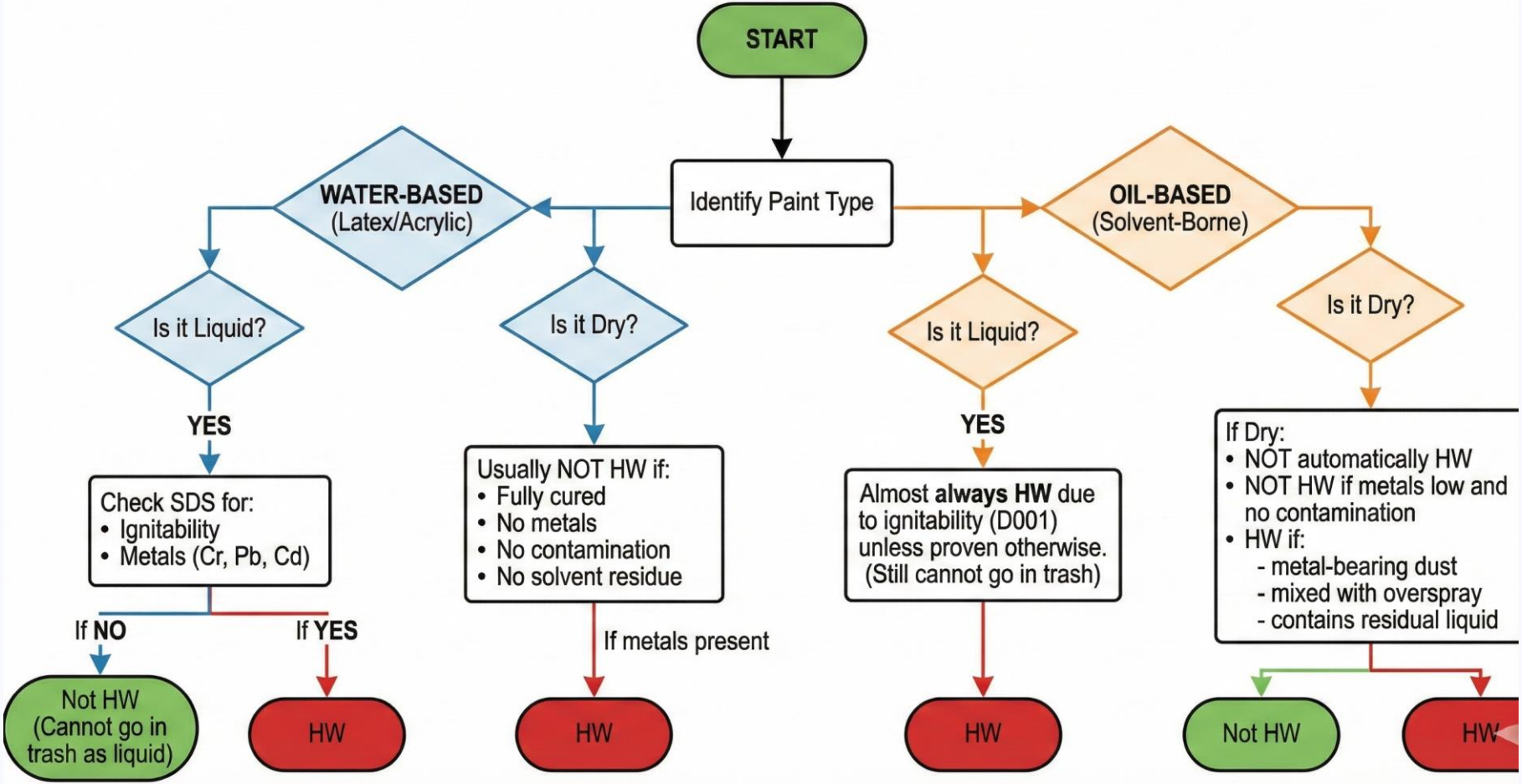
Is Waste Paint Hazardous?

- Does it contain:
  - **Do they contain metals (Cd, Cr, Pb, Cu, Ba, Ni, Zn) or toxic organics?**
  - **Do they contain ignitable solvent (<140f)?**
    - **i.e. Waste paint with acetone or thinners?**

WAIT! But…

1. I only use water base paint!!!
2. My paint has dried out, is it still HW?

Paint Waste Determination Process



Is Your Autobody Waste Hazardous?

	Waste Stream	Category	Why / Notes
1	Solvent / Thinner Waste	HW	Ignitable (D001). Toxic. Cannot be excluded.
2	Lacquer	HW	Highly ignitable.
3	Used Oil / Antifreeze	HW (CA)	Regulated hazardous waste until recycled.
4	Liquid Solvent-Based Paint	HW	Ignitable (D001). Metals may be present.
5	Unused Solvent Coatings (discarded)	HW	Ignitable or toxic when discarded.
6	Solvent Rags (improperly managed)	HW	Free liquids = HW.
7	Sanding Dust from Primers/Paints	Mostly HW	Often contains Cr, Pb, Ni.
8	Paint Booth Filters (overspray)	Mostly HW	Accumulate solvents/metals.
9	Water-Based Paint (Liquid)	Maybe HW	Depends on SDS; may contain metals.
10	Dry Paint Film (All types)	Maybe HW	May contain metals or be contaminated.
11	Bondo (Cured)	Mostly Not HW	No metals; inert when cured.
12	Intake Booth Filters	Mostly Not HW	No overspray = no metals.
13	Solvent Rags (managed under exclusion)	Not HW	No free liquids; regulated laundry path.
14	Scrap Metal / Empty Containers	Not HW	RCRA empty or recyclable.

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Remember to…

Minimize paint waste! (It's a commodity why waste money and generate waste)

– Order only what you need; manage inventory & avoid overstock
–Reduce transfer waste
– Save leftover coatings for small jobs. i.e. jambs & door interiors
– Plan jobs: schedule primer and clear coat work back-to-back and limit overspray

Labels, Cover, Spills, trash bin

– Properly label HW containers
– Cover containers, do not leave container open on purpose to dry out (treatment)

-Ensure nothing is accidentally disposed in trash bin, never wash dust into storm drains

Documentation is the Key–

-Keep manifests, bills of lading & recycling receipts ≥3 years

-Retain lab analyses for sanding dust & filters and SDS for coatings

-Maintain receipts for parts washers, laundry & battery core returns

How can I Safely & legally dispose of these HW?

Licensed hazardous waste transporter (Ship on a Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest).

1. LOS ANGELES: S.A.F.E. Center

https://lacitysan.org

→310-387-1071

4HCESQG@cleanharbors.com

2. OC Waste & Recycling

Business HHW (VSQG)

Phone: (714) 834-4000

Website: oclandfills.com

Email: hhw@ocwr.ocgov.com

EPA ID # A MUST

Paint Care Program (Limited) Accepts oil-based and latex paint from VSQGs (small businesses), with restrictions: https//www.paintcare.org

(855) PAINT09

→ Accepts oil-based and latex paint FOR ARCHITECTURAL COATING from VSQGs (small businesses).

MAY NOT ACCEPT AUTOMOTIVE PAINT.

Local HHW collection event, or authorized drop-off.

CALL FIRST TO FIND OUT

NOT HW:

Empty Cans, empty aerosol cans, scrap metals.

Plastic cans: solid waste (if clean & dry).

The following two options can be used to file a complaint on a suspected illegal autobody shop:

1. File a complaint electronically here: https://fire.lacounty.gov/contact-us/
2. Email: AskHHMD@fire.lacounty.gov

Questions?

Thank you for helping protect our environment & community