

## Running an Auto Collision Repair Shop? Know Your Ohio EPA Regulations

### Introduction

If you are running a collision repair shop, it is important for you to know the Ohio EPA regulations that may apply to your business. Under these regulations, you may be required to get permits for air and wastewater discharges. You may also be required to notify Ohio EPA of your hazardous waste generator activities or complete other reports. Complying with some regulations, such as getting an air permit for example, may take some time. So, the earlier you look into your responsibilities under the rules, the better.

It's important that you know the regulations and comply with them because **there can be violations or penalties if you are found out of compliance.**

This fact sheet summarizes some of the major environmental requirements that could apply to your collision repair business. It may not cover every requirement, and should not be used as your sole source of information on the regulations. It will, though, provide you with a starting point in identifying areas where your business might be subject to regulation.

If you need more information or have additional questions about the environmental regulations you can contact your local Ohio EPA District Office (see map) or the Small Business Assistance Office at 800-329-7518 for help.

### Air Pollution Regulations

It is common for a collision repair shop to need air pollution control permits for painting or coating operations, especially for units such as spray booths. The required permits for a unit include a permit-to-install (PTI) and permit-to-operate (PTO). The permits include conditions related to acceptable air emissions, operating conditions, record keeping and reporting requirements for the company.

There are some exemptions from permitting for small air pollution sources (called "deminimis sources"). These sources are exempt if they emit less than certain regulatory levels of air pollutants. Some collision repair operations may be deminimis. This usually depends on factors such as the size of the operation and the types of coatings used (e.g., low VOC coatings). *Contact your local Ohio EPA District Office, Division of Air Pollution Control or Small Business Assistance Program at 614-644-4830 for more information on the deminimis exemption or air permitting requirements.*

There are also U.S. EPA regulations in place for handling Freon from motor vehicle air conditioners. These requirements include technician training and certification of recovery equipment. In addition, there are regulations for properly handling and disposing of recovered Freon. *For more information on these requirements, contact U.S. EPA's Ozone Protection Program at 800-296-1996.*

### Managing Wastes

Any company that generates a waste is required to evaluate it to see if it is hazardous waste under Ohio EPA's regulations. If your company generates a hazardous waste, you are required to follow Ohio's hazardous waste regulations.

These regulations include properly managing and disposing of all hazardous waste. In addition, if your company generates more than 100 kilograms (or 220 pounds) of hazardous waste in any month, you must obtain a generator identification number from Ohio EPA. A permit is not required to generate hazardous waste. A permit is only needed in Ohio if a company wants to treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste.

#### **Hazardous wastes generated by collision repair shops may include:**

- spent solvents
- solvent contaminated wipers/shop towels
- filters from paint booths
- waste paints
- spent fluorescent bulbs (containing mercury)
- antifreeze contaminated with metals, solvents, or other chemicals
- waste from grit chambers containing solvents, paints or metals

Ohio EPA's regulations include some specific standards for companies that handle or generate used oil. Most of these regulations relate to good housekeeping practices. The regulations also encourage used oil recycling activities. *Contact your local Ohio EPA District Office, Division of Hazardous Waste Management for more information on the hazardous waste or used oil regulations.*

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If your company generates nonhazardous wastes like scrap metal or scrap tires, you must also ensure that these are properly disposed of or recycled. Ohio EPA has specific regulations relating to scrap tires. *For more information on scrap tire or other solid waste regulations, contact your local Ohio EPA District Office, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management.*

## Water Pollution Control

### Sanitary Wastewater

Sanitary waste includes waste/wastewater from bathrooms, sinks, etc. One option for managing sanitary waste includes discharging it into a sanitary sewer that leads to a public wastewater treatment plant (also called a POTW). Sanitary wastes can also be discharged to an on-site sanitary waste treatment system.

If you need to construct an on-site sanitary waste treatment system (e.g., septic tank and leach field), this activity requires a permit-to-install (PTI) from Ohio EPA. In addition, if there is a discharge from the treatment system to surface water (e.g., a stream, river, lake, etc.) this activity requires a discharge permit (called an NPDES permit) from Ohio EPA.

### Industrial Wastewater: Direct Discharges

Industrial wastewater from collision repair shops may include wastewater from: equipment cleaning, car washing, operating a wet spray booth, etc. Under Ohio EPA's regulations, options for handling industrial wastewater include obtaining a permit to discharge directly into surface water or discharging to a public wastewater treatment plant.

Any discharge of industrial wastewater to "waters of the state" will require a discharge permit (called an NPDES permit) from Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water. Examples of waters of the state include: streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways, wells and springs. Wastewater discharges entering a conveyance system (like a ditch or storm sewer) that leads to a waterway can also require an NPDES permit.

You may also be required to treat wastewater to remove harmful contaminants (e.g., metals, chemicals, oils or grease) before it is discharged. If treatment is required, a separate permit is needed to construct wastewater treatment units, called a permit-to-install (or PTI). The PTI application is reviewed by Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water.

### Industrial Wastewater: Indirect Discharges

Often, the local wastewater treatment plants (or POTWs) are responsible for regulating the companies that discharge wastewater to them. A large public wastewater treatment plant may easily be able to handle the wastewater from your business. However, even large wastewater treatment plants are not generally designed to handle industrial wastes like chemicals, metals, oils, etc. They are designed to handle

sewage related wastes and wastewaters. Because of this, the treatment plant may require you to conduct "pretreatment" (e.g., remove of metals, oil or grease, etc.) before discharging your wastewater to them.

If you want to discharge industrial wastewater to a local treatment plant, you need to discuss these activities with the treatment plant directly. Permission to discharge to the POTW and/or obtaining a permit may be necessary. If you are required to construct wastewater treatment or storage units, this activity requires a permit to install (or PTI) from Ohio EPA.

#### **\*\* IMPORTANT NOTE \*\***

Ohio EPA's regulations DO NOT allow for the discharge of industrial wastewaters into on-site sewage treatment systems, like septic tanks. You need to be aware of floor drains in your collision repair shop and ensure that industrial wastewater or automotive fluids do not enter an on-site septic system.

*Contact the Division of Surface Water at your local Ohio EPA District Office for more information on the wastewater discharge and permitting requirements.*

## Drinking Water Requirements

If your business has its own well for a water source, it may meet Ohio EPA's definition of a public water system. A public water system is one that has at least 15 service connections or regularly provides water to 25 or more people for 60 or more days a year. Providing water can include: making water available for drinking, cooking, washing hands, washing dishes or bathing.

If a company plans to install/drill a new well or make changes to an existing well system, plans for these activities must be sent to Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters for review. In addition, well systems must be tested periodically and the test results reported to Ohio EPA. *Contact your local Ohio EPA District Office, Division of Drinking & Ground Waters for more information on well system requirements.*

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### Pollution Prevention

You can probably save money and reduce your regulatory burdens if you explore ways of preventing pollution. This can include reducing waste streams, emissions or recycling. Contact Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention at 614-644-3469 for more information on pollution prevention opportunities for your business.

***Pollution prevention options for collision repair shops can include:***

- using high-efficiency spray equipment
- using non-hazardous solvents and cleaning materials
- choosing coatings that have low VOCs (volatile organic compounds)
- good housekeeping practices to minimize spills, leaks, etc.
- recycling materials such as used solvents

### Additional Information

Although this information sheet may not cover every EPA requirement that might apply to your business, it can provide you with a starting point. If you have additional questions about your responsibilities or need more information, please contact the Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Office for FREE and CONFIDENTIAL help at 800-329-7518 or 614-728-8573.

You can also contact your local Ohio EPA District Office for assistance. See map for the District Office which covers the county your business is located in.

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## DISTRICT OFFICES

**CD0** Central District Office  
3232 Alum Creek Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43207-3417  
(614) 728-3778 FAX: (614) 728-3898  
1-800-686-2330

**SEDO** Southeast District Office  
2195 Front Street  
Logan, Ohio 43138  
(614) 385-8501 FAX: (614) 385-6490  
1-800-686-7330

**NEDO** Northeast District Office  
2110 E. Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087  
(216) 425-9171 FAX: (216) 487-0769  
1-800-686-6330

**SWDO** Southwest District Office  
401 East Fifth Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2911  
(937) 285-6357 FAX: (937) 285-6249  
1-800-686-8930

**NWDO** Northwest District Office  
347 North Dunbridge Road  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402  
(419) 352-8461 FAX: (419) 352-8468  
1-800-686-6930



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# Publications for Auto Body Shops

The following publications may be helpful to you in understanding the environmental regulations that apply to your auto body shop. To get your FREE copies, complete this form and return it to the Small Business Assistance Office.

- Ohio EPA Resource Guide**  
Learn more about the Ohio EPA and resources available to you. Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Office, April 1999.
- Small Business Environmental Compliance Self-Assessment Guide (booklet)**  
Do a self-check of your compliance with Ohio EPA's regulations. Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Office, March 1998.
- Getting Copies of Ohio EPA's Regulations (fact sheet)**  
Need to get a copy of the regulations? This fact sheet will explain how. Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Office, September 1998.
- Pollution Prevention, Getting Started (fact sheet)**  
Learn how to reduce waste at your business. Ohio EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention, January 1996.
- Pollution Prevention in Painting and Coating Operations (fact sheet)**  
Ohio EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention, September 1994.
- Automotive Repair Facilities (fact sheet)**  
Ohio EPA, Office of Pollution Prevention, February 1999.
- Environmental Laws (fact sheet)**  
An overview of environmental regulations. Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Office, September 1998.
- How Your Small Business Can Get in Touch with EPA Air Requirements (brochure)**  
Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Program, Division of Air Pollution Control.
- Air Pollution Regulations Affecting Body Shops with Painting Operations (fact sheet)**  
Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Program, January 1997.

- Does Your Facility Generate Automotive Service Wastes? (brochure)**  
U.S. EPA, Underground Injection Control Program (UIC).
- Does Your Facility Generate Industrial Wastewaters? (brochure)**  
U.S. EPA, #EPA905-F-94-002, September 1994.
- Selecting a TSD Facility to Handle Your Hazardous Wastes (fact sheet)**  
Ohio Small Business Assistance Office, March 1997.
- Guidance on the Management of Solvent-Contaminated Rags and Wipers**  
Ohio EPA, Division of Hazardous Waste Management, March 1994.
- Understanding the Hazardous Waste Rules - A Handbook for Small Business - 1996 Update**  
U.S. EPA, Solid Waste & Emergency Response, #EPA 530-K-95-001, June 1996.

To Order Call: 800-329-7518  
Fax: 614-728-8579

OR Fold and Mail to: Ohio EPA, SBAO  
3232 Alum Creek Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43207

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|--|-------|
| <b>Please send me the publication(s) marked with an X...</b> |       |
| Name   | _____ |
| Company  | _____ |
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| City, State, Zip   | _____ |

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Small Business Assistance Office  
3232 Alum Creek Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43207