

May 2007

# Running an Auto Maintenance Shop? Know Your Ohio EPA Regulations

## Introduction

If you are running an auto maintenance shop, you need to know the Ohio EPA regulations that apply to you. Under these regulations, you may need permits for air and wastewater discharges. You may also be required to notify Ohio EPA if you are a hazardous waste generator or complete other reports. Complying with some regulations, such as getting an air or wastewater permit may take some time, so the earlier you look into your responsibilities under the rules, the better.

It's important you know the regulations and comply with them because your company can face violations or penalties if you are found out of compliance. This fact sheet summarizes some of the major Ohio EPA requirements that could apply to your auto maintenance shop. It may not cover every environmental requirement, though, and should not be used as your only source of information on the regulations.

You will also need to contact other agencies such as the local zoning and building department, fire department, health department, Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and others to find out what additional requirements apply to your business. Contact the State Fire Marshal's Office in Ohio to get more information on underground tank requirements.



## Air Pollution Regulations

If your business involves painting or coating operations, you may need an air pollution control permit from Ohio EPA, especially for units such as spray booths. You may also need a permit if you have parts cleaning stations with halogenated solvents. There are also permitting requirements for gasoline dispensing operations.

### Halogenated solvents include:

- methylene chloride,
- perchloroethylene,
- trichloroethylene,
- 1,1,1-trichloroethane,
- carbon tetrachloride and
- chloroform.

For units or activities that require permits, a business must get a permit-to-install (PTI) and permit-to-operate (PTO). These permits include conditions related to acceptable air emissions, operating conditions, record keeping and reporting requirements for the company. For smaller operations, the permit conditions may be rather simple and getting a permit does not necessarily mean your business needs to spend a lot of money on pollution control equipment or testing.

There are also some exemptions from permitting for small air pollution sources (called de minimis sources). These sources are exempt if they emit less than certain regulatory levels of air pollutants. Some auto maintenance activities may be de minimis. This usually depends on factors such as the size of the operation and the types of materials used (for example, low VOC materials,

non halogenated solvents). Contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Air Pollution Control or Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention at 800-329-7518 for more information on the de minimis exemption or air permitting requirements.

There are also U.S. EPA regulations 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 refrigerants. See resource section at the end of this fact sheet for a link to more information on U.S. EPA's ozone requirements.

## Managing Wastes

### Non Hazardous Waste

Your business will generate non-hazardous, solid wastes such as packaging, scrap metal and other discarded items. Some of this solid waste can be recycled. Waste that can't be recycled must be taken to a solid waste landfill. You cannot dispose of solid waste on your property or burning it in open barrels, pits or piles. Ohio EPA has regulations for managing scrap tires. If your company generates scrap tires, you must ensure that these are properly disposed of or recycled.

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.

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### Hazardous Waste

Any company that generates a waste must determine if the waste is a hazardous waste. Wastes that are ignitable, corrosive, reactive or toxic are defined as characteristic hazardous wastes. In addition, there are specific lists of hazardous wastes in Ohio EPA's regulations.

Many auto maintenance shops generate hazardous waste. If your business generates hazardous waste, you are required to follow Ohio's hazardous waste regulations. These regulations include properly managing your hazardous waste on-site and keeping certain records. You must send hazardous waste to a recycler or permitted hazardous waste disposal facility. You CAN NOT throw hazardous waste in your solid waste trash dumpster.

If your company generates more than 100 kilograms (or 220 pounds) of hazardous waste in a month, you must get a generator identification number from Ohio EPA.

Hazardous wastes generated by auto maintenance shops may include:

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

### Used Oil and Oil Filters

Ohio EPA has regulations for companies that handle or generate used oil. Under the regulations, used oil must be sent off-site for recycling or disposal.

Companies that generate used oil must follow good housekeeping practices. There are requirements for labeling used oil containers and tanks.

Your business would be classified as a used oil collection center if you accept used oil from other businesses. Used oil collection centers must be registered with Ohio EPA's Division of Hazardous Waste Management.

The used oil regulations may also apply if you are burning used oil in an on-site space heater at the business. An air permit may be needed for the heater, depending on the size of the unit and materials being burned.

Contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Hazardous Waste Management for more information on the hazardous waste or used oil regulations. For used oil space heaters and air permitting requirements, contact the Division of Air Pollution Control.

### Oil Pollution Prevention

The Spill Prevention and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations help prevent discharges of oil and petroleum products. Under these regulations, planning and engineering controls are required to help prevent spills. If you store oil or petroleum products on-site, the SPCC requirements may apply.

The regulations apply to companies that have above ground storage capacity for oil (used or unused) or petroleum products of 1,320 gallons or more. The total capacity of your tanks or containers must be considered, not the actual amount of oil stored or the portion commonly used. If you are storing oil in containers less than 55 gallons in size, you do not need to include these in calculating your SPCC storage capacity.

Under the regulations, a company must have an SPCC plan which outlines its

prevention, control and response capabilities. The regulations also require secondary containment for oil storage areas.

See the resource section at the end of this fact sheet for links to resources on SPCC requirements. You can also contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Emergency and Remedial Response for more information on the SPCC regulations.

### 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). Another option is to discharge sanitary wastes to an on-site sanitary waste treatment system (for example, septic tank and leach field).

If you need to construct an on-site sanitary waste treatment system, 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 (for example, a stream, river, lake, etc.) this requires a discharge permit (an NPDES permit) from Ohio EPA.

A simple connection to the POTW through the sanitary sewer does not normally require a PTI from Ohio EPA. A PTI may be needed, however, for larger construction activities such as building or extending a sewer line at your business.

#### Industrial Wastewater

Industrial wastewater from auto maintenance shops may include wastewater from: equipment cleaning, car washing, operating a wet spray booth, etc. Under

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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 through the sanitary sewer.

### Industrial Wastewater: Direct Discharges

Any discharge of industrial wastewater to "waters of the state" requires a discharge permit (NPDES permit) from Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water. Examples of waters of the state include: streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses and waterways. Wastewater discharges entering conveyance systems (like ditches or storm sewers) that lead to a waterway can also require an NPDES permit.

Before discharging your wastewater, you may be required to treat wastewater to remove harmful contaminants (for example, metals, chemicals, oils or grease). If treatment is required, a permit-to-install (or PTI) is needed for wastewater treatment or storage units. This may include, for example, the installation of an oil/water separator. The PTI application is reviewed by Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water.

### Industrial Wastewater: Indirect Discharges

If your business is connected to a public wastewater treatment plant (POTW), you may be able to discharge your industrial wastewater to the POTW. A large wastewater treatment plant may be easily 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.

Before you discharge any industrial wastewater to your local POTW, you

need to contact them directly for permission to do this. You may be required to obtain a permit before you can discharge your wastewater to the POTW. You may also be required to conduct "pretreatment" to remove contaminants (for example, metals, oil, solids or chemicals) before discharging your wastewater. If you install wastewater treatment or storage units, this requires a permit-to-install (PTI) from Ohio EPA.

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

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

Ohio EPA's regulations **do not** allow the discharge of process-related wastewater into on-site sewage treatment systems, like septic tanks and leach fields. You need to be aware of floor drains in your maintenance shop and ensure that process-related wastewater or automotive fluids do not enter an on-site septic system. If your floor drains lead to a POTW, you need to contact the POTW to discuss your wastewater discharges with them.

### Drinking Water Requirements

If your business has its own well that supplies water for drinking, cooking, washing hands, washing dishes or bathing, 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.

Under these regulations, if a company wants to install 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. In addition, well systems must be tested periodically and 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.

### Pollution Prevention

You can probably save money and reduce your regulatory burdens if you find ways of preventing pollution. This can include reducing waste streams, emissions or recycling.

Contact Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention at (800) 329-7518 for more information on pollution prevention opportunities for your business.

#### **Pollution prevention options include:**

- using high-efficiency equipment
- using non-hazardous solvents and cleaning materials
- good housekeeping practices to minimize spills, leaks, etc.
- recycling materials such as used solvents, antifreeze and oil
- segregating and storing waste streams in proper containers to allow for recycling

### Where can I get more help?

This fact sheet is a starting point to help you identify the regulations that may apply to your mobile oil changing business. If you have questions about the used oil regulations, contact the Division of Hazardous Waste Management at (614) 644-2917 or your local Ohio EPA district office.

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You can also contact Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) for help. OCAPP is a non-regulatory office of Ohio EPA with a goal of helping small businesses comply with environmental regulations and permitting requirements. If you are operating a small business with fewer than 100 employees, we can help you! For more information, contact OCAPP at (800) 329-7518, or visit our Web site at [www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb).

## Additional Resources

**Environmental Compliance Guide for Auto Repair Shops**

[www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb/publications/AutoRepairGuide.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb/publications/AutoRepairGuide.pdf)

**Regulation of Used Oil: Used Oil Burners**

[www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/pdf/Used\\_Oil\\_Burner\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/pdf/Used_Oil_Burner_Guidance.pdf)

**Regulation of Used Oil: Used Oil Generators**

[www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/pdf/Used\\_Oil\\_Generators\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/pdf/Used_Oil_Generators_Guidance.pdf)

**Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program**

[www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb/publications/spcc.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb/publications/spcc.pdf)

**Identifying Your Hazardous Waste**

[www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb/publications/identifyingwaste.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/sb/publications/identifyingwaste.pdf)

**U.S. EPA's Ozone Web page**

[www.epa.gov/Ozone/title6/609](http://www.epa.gov/Ozone/title6/609)

# OhioEPA

## District Offices



**CDO Central District Office**  
50 W. Town St. Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 728-3778

**SEDO Southeast District Office**  
2195 Front St.  
Logan, OH 43138  
(740) 385-8501

**NEDO Northeast District Office**  
2110 E. Aurora Rd.  
Twinsburg, OH 44087  
(330) 963-1200

**SWDO Southwest District Office**  
401 E. Fifth St.  
Dayton, OH 45402-6357  
(937) 285-6357

**NWDO Northwest District Office**  
347 N. Dunbridge Rd.  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
(419) 352-8461