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## Running a Woodworking or Refinishing Business? Know Your Ohio EPA Regulations

### Introduction

Whether you make new furniture, repair old furniture or do some other type of woodworking or refinishing, it is important for you to know the Ohio EPA regulations that may apply to your business. Under these regulations, you may need permits for air pollution sources or wastewater discharges. You may need to notify Ohio EPA that you generate hazardous waste and submit reports about your waste activity. Complying with some regulations, such as obtaining permits, can take time. So, the earlier you find out what you need to do under the rules, the better.

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*It's important that you know the regulations and comply with them before you start your business because non-compliance can lead to violations or fines.*

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This information sheet summarizes some of the major Ohio EPA requirements that could apply to your woodworking or refinishing business. It may not cover every requirement and should not be used as your sole source of information on the regulations. However, it will 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 Sources

Solvent vapors from stripping, painting, coating and gluing are considered air pollutants. Sanding, planing and cutting activities generate dust, which is also considered an air pollutant. You may need permits from Ohio EPA for your air pollution sources.

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*There are many solvents found in woodworking shops that are regulated as air pollutants. Some of the more common ones are:*

|                      |                     |            |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------|
| benzene              | methyl ethyl ketone | toluene    |
| carbon tetrachloride | methylene chloride  | xylene     |
| formaldehyde         | hexane              | isophorone |

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The required permits include a permit-to-install (PTI) and a permit-to-operate (PTO) the air pollution source(s). The permits outline operating conditions, required control equipment, allowable emissions, recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

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 woodworking activities may be deminimis. In addition, some air pollution sources such as saws, planers and sanders may also be exempt from the air permit requirements.

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.

### Managing Wastes

#### *Solid Waste - Trash*

Your business will generate nonhazardous, solid wastes such as wood scraps, packaging, empty containers and other discarded items. Some of this solid waste, such as wood scraps and paper packaging, can be recycled. Waste that can't be recycled must be taken to a solid waste landfill. Ohio EPA's regulations prohibit the disposal of solid waste on your property or burning it in open barrels, pits or piles.

Contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management for more information on the solid waste requirements.

#### *Hazardous Waste*

Any company that generates a waste must determine if that 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.

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*Many woodworking and refinishing businesses generate hazardous wastes. Some of the common hazardous wastes generated include:*

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| spent solvents              | waste coatings                                 |
| solvent contaminated wipers | waste stains                                   |
| spent alkaline cleaners     | used spray booth filters                       |
| stripped coatings           | spill clean up materials                       |
| spent paint strippers       | used fluorescent bulbs<br>(containing mercury) |

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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. Hazardous waste must be sent to a permitted hazardous waste facility for disposal and CANNOT be disposed of in your trash dumpster. In addition, if your company generates more than 100 kilograms (or 220 pounds) of hazardous waste in a month, you must obtain a generator identification number from Ohio EPA. A permit is not required to generate hazardous waste.

Contact your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Hazardous Waste Management for more information on the hazardous waste requirements.

## Water Pollution Control

### *Sanitary Wastewater*

Sanitary waste includes waste and wastewater from bathrooms, sinks, etc. Options for managing sanitary waste include discharging it to a public wastewater treatment plant (also called a POTW) or discharging it to an on-site sanitary waste treatment system.

If you need to construct an on-site sanitary waste treatment system for your business (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 (such as a stream, river or lake) this activity requires a discharge permit (called an NPDES permit) from Ohio EPA.

### *Industrial Wastewater: Direct Discharges*

Woodworking shops may generate industrial wastewater from equipment cleaning, water wash spray booths, floor washing and other sources. Any discharge of industrial wastewater to "waters of the state" will require a discharge permit (called an NPDES permit) from Ohio EPA. Examples of waters of the state include streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways 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., chemicals, oils or grease) before it is discharged. If treatment is required, a permit-to-install (PTI) is needed to construct any wastewater treatment units.

### *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 (e.g., metals, oil, solids or chemicals) before discharging your wastewater. If you are required to install wastewater treatment or storage units, this activity requires a permit-to-install (PTI) from Ohio EPA.

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

Ohio EPA's regulations DO NOT allow for the discharge of industrial wastewaters into on-site treatment systems, like septic tanks. Know where your floor drains go. Don't let industrial wastewater go to a septic system or discharge onto the ground.

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### *Stormwater Discharges*

Certain types of manufacturing facilities are regulated under Ohio EPA's stormwater program, depending on their specific SIC codes or outdoor activities that could contaminate stormwater. The purpose of Ohio EPA's stormwater program is to prevent contaminants, carried by stormwater runoff, from washing into streams, rivers or other bodies of water.

A company subject to the stormwater requirements needs to get a permit (an NPDES permit) for stormwater discharges. In addition, the company needs to develop a plan and use "best management practices" to prevent contaminated stormwater from entering surface waters. Other permit conditions may require water monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting. If you store paint, solvents, waste or other materials outside that could contaminate stormwater run off, you may be required to obtain a permit.

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

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## 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 for review. 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 and Ground Waters for more information on well system requirements.

## Pollution Prevention

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

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*Pollution prevention options for woodworking shops can include:*

- use high-efficiency spray equipment
- use non-hazardous solvents and cleaning materials
- choose coatings and adhesives with low VOCs and HAPs
- use good housekeeping practices to minimize spills, leaks, etc.
- recycle materials when possible

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Contact Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention at 614-644-3469 for more information on pollution prevention opportunities for your business.

## Additional Information

This information sheet is a starting point to help you understand and comply with the environmental regulations. If you have questions about forms, permits, registrations or need more information about your potential responsibilities, please contact Ohio EPA's Small Business Assistance Office at 800-329-7518 or 614-728-8573 for FREE and CONFIDENTIAL help.

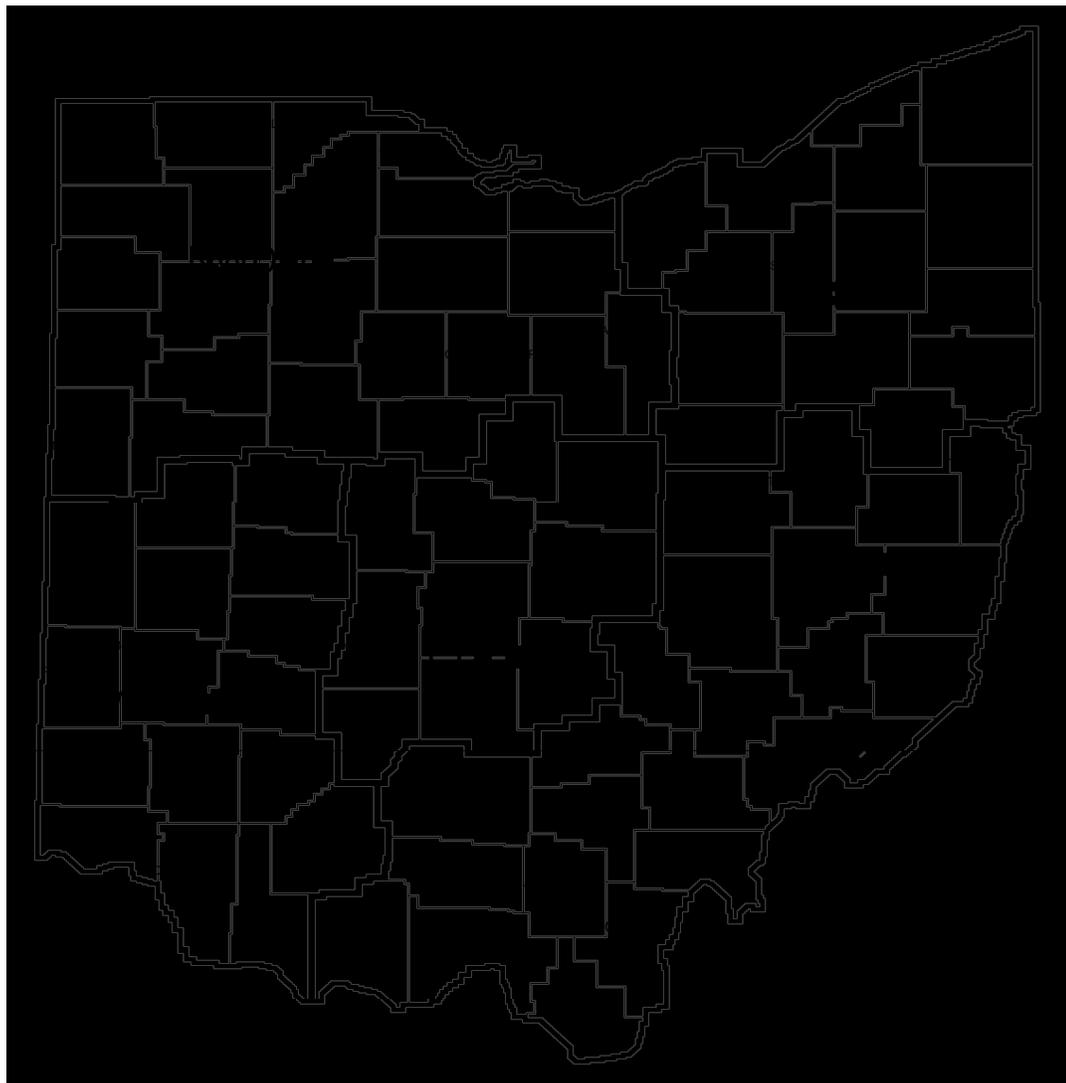
You can also contact your local Ohio EPA district office for assistance. See map for the district office which covers the county where your business is located.

Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Office  
3232 Alum Creek Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43207-3417  
800-329-7518 or 614-728-8573.

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**Central District Office (CDO)**  
3232 Alum Creek Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43207-3461  
614-728-3778

**Southeast District Office (SEDO)**  
2195 Front Street  
Logan, Ohio 43138  
740-385-8501

**Southwest District Office (SWDO)**  
401 East Fifth Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
937-285-6357

**Northeast District Office (NEDO)**  
2110 E. Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087  
216-425-9171

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



## Publications for Wood Working and Refinishing Shops June 1999

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

- Getting in Touch with Air Pollution Requirements for Wood Furniture Manufacturing (fact sheet)**  
Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Program, January 1997.
- Furniture/Wood Manufacturing and Refinishing (fact sheet)**  
Describes hazardous wastes that could be produced by your business. U.S. EPA, #530-SW-90-0127c.
- An Ounce of Prevention: The Advantages of Reducing Waste** (Video 24 minutes, free rental).  
Ohio EPA, Southwest District Office, 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.
- Understanding the Hazardous Waste Rules - A Handbook for Small Business**  
U.S. EPA Solid Waste & Emergency Response, EPA 530-K-95-001 June 1996.
- 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.
- How Your Small Business Can Get in Touch With EPA Air Requirements (brochure)**  
Ohio EPA, Small Business Assistance Program, Division of Air Pollution Control.
- Does Your Facility Generate Industrial Wastewaters? (brochure)**  
U.S. EPA #EPA905-F-94-002/September 1994.
- Small Business Environmental Compliance Self-Assessment Guide (booklet)**  
Do a self-check of your compliance with Ohio EPA's regulations. Ohio EPA, SBAO, March 1998.
- Ohio EPA Resource Guide**  
Learn more about the Ohio EPA and resources available to you. Ohio EPA, SBAO, April 1999.
- Getting Copies of Ohio EPA's Regulations (fact sheet)**  
This fact sheet explains how to get the regulations. Ohio EPA, SBAO, September 1998.
- Environmental Laws (fact sheet)**  
An overview of environmental regulations. Ohio EPA, SBAO, September 1998.

**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**

Please send me the publication(s) marked with an X...

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ohio EPA  
Small Business Assistance Office  
3232 Alum Creek Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43207-3417