

# COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

## News You Can Use

### STORMWATER COMPLIANCE FOR AUTO BODY SANDING

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Compliance Assistance Bulletin is to help facility operators:

- comply with local stormwater ordinance requirements,
- properly manage auto body sanding dust, and
- be prepared for stormwater compliance inspections.

**Issue**

Auto body sanding dust is a stormwater pollutant and is presumed to be a hazardous waste because of the toxic heavy metals normally present in paints and the metal of the vehicle body.

**How to properly manage auto body sanding dust**

| <i>For...</i>                                   | <i>Do this...</i>   |
|---|---|
| Sanding operations                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform sanding indoors or in areas protected from wind exposure or stormwater contact.</li> <li>• Sweep or vacuum sanding floor frequently to collect dust and prevent dispersal.</li> <li>• Prevent dust from being tracked outdoors by shoes or vehicles.</li> <li>• Never hose off shop floor to outside pavement.</li> <li>• After removing any sanding dust from the floor, mop the shop and discharge the water to the sanitary sewer (such as the toilet, utility sink, or other indoor sanitary drain).</li> <li>• Ensure that wet sanding water is not discharged to a storm drain, street, landscaped areas, or other outdoor area- see reverse side for more information.</li> </ul> |
| Management & disposal of collected sanding dust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispose of sanding dust as hazardous waste unless it has been tested for toxicity by a state certified lab (for heavy metals content and/or a fish kill test) and proven to be non-hazardous. Contact your hazardous materials specialist or BERC for specific information about hazardous waste management or testing requirements.</li> <li>• Manage sanding dust that has been lab tested and proven to be non-hazardous as solid waste by collecting and placing in your dumpster after it has been contained in a plastic bag which has been tied to prevent spillage. Keep copies of all lab results at your facility.</li> </ul>  |

*\*Failure to comply with stormwater regulations may result in fines and penalties.*

**How to properly manage wet sanding waste**

| <i>What to do...</i>  | <i>Suggestions for how you might do it...</i>   |
|---|---|
| Create a wet sanding containment area   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glue or bolt plastic or metal berms to the shop floor that are rounded and low enough to prevent tripping, but still contain water.</li> <li>• Construct concrete berms making sure to round the curb or berm on at least one side to allow vehicle access.</li> </ul>   |
| Collect the wastewater  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a small in-ground collection sump to collect wet sanding water by installing a concrete or plastic sump in the floor inside the contained area.</li> <li>• Install a drain in the contained area that is connected to an approved separator and is hard-piped to the sanitary sewer.</li> <li>• Use a shop vacuum to manually collect wet sanding water as it accumulates in the containment area.</li> </ul> |
| Separate the water from the sludge/solids by settling                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharge collected waste water to a settling tank /container to separate the solids/sludge from the water.</li> <li>• A separator installed as part of a new sewer connection will separate the solids/sludge from the water automatically.</li> </ul>  |
| Properly dispose of or recycle collected water that has had solids/sludge removed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manually discharge small quantities (less than 50 gallons per day) of clarified wastewater to a toilet, floor drain or utility sink.</li> <li>• Install a water recycling system that separates solids and reuses the wastewater.</li> </ul>   |
| Properly dispose of accumulated solids/sludge                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispose of all sludge and solids as hazardous waste using a licensed hazardous waste hauler unless it has been tested and proven non-hazardous.</li> <li>• Combine sanding waste (dry or wet) with other paint related waste sludge.</li> </ul>  |

**Warnings**

- You must obtain a Building Permit, Sanitation District approval and permission from your property owner before constructing any structural system or installing piping.
- Wet sanding waste should not be discharged to a septic system because the paint dust solids/sludge may be hazardous waste. Additionally, it may not be advisable to discharge separated wet sanding water to your septic tank as it may cause overload and failure of the septic system.

**Contact Information**

- Building Department:
  - Sacramento County (916) 875-5296 • City of Sacramento (916) 808-5656
  - City of Citrus Heights (916) 727-4760 • City of Elk Grove (916) 478-2235
  - City of Folsom (916) 351-3555 • City of Galt (209) 366-7200
  - City of Rancho Cordova (916) 851-8760
- Sanitation District (SRCSD/CSD-1): (916) 876-6100 for sanitary sewer questions
- EMD Water Protection Division: (916) 875-8400 for stormwater questions
- EMD Hazardous Materials Division: (916) 875-8550 for hazardous waste questions
- BERCC: (916) 649-0225 for free & confidential non-regulatory compliance assistance

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