



# Focus

## Surface Preparation Wastes From The Paint Contractor Industry

### The Issue

Preparing a surface for painting is one of the most critical steps in the painting process. The surface preparation method chosen depends on whether the surface is simply to be cleaned of contaminants, or if the paint or coating on the surface needs to be removed. Each method can create a lot of waste for a contractor to manage, and each waste can be a potentially dangerous waste that requires special on-site management and proper disposal.

This guidance is provided to assist painting contractors in the proper management of waste resulting from surface preparation.

### Surface Preparation Wastes

Method	Concerns	Pollution Prevention (P2) Tips	On-Site Management	Disposal Options
Sanding and scraping <sup>1</sup>	Heavy metals <sup>2</sup> in the paint	Sample a paint chip prior to sanding; Sand or scrape only as needed	Contain; and if necessary, test to determine if paint is a dangerous waste <sup>3</sup>	Use a hazardous waste disposal firm if dangerous waste; or get a waste clearance from the local solid waste agency to dispose of non-dangerous waste
Abrasive blasting	Heavy metals in the paint; Spent copper or nickel slag blast media*	Sample a paint chip prior to blasting; Use vacuum blasting system so blast media can be reused	Contain and accumulate to prevent releases to ground, air or water; If necessary, test to determine if paint is a dangerous waste	Use a hazardous waste disposal firm if dangerous waste; or get a waste clearance from the local solid waste agency to dispose of non-dangerous waste.
High-pressure washing/ hydroblasting	Heavy metals in the paint; Disposal of large amounts of waste water	Start with a test area, sample the wastewater and have a lab analyze	Follow containment and disposal requirements.	<b>DO NOT</b> dispose of wastewater to the ground, storm drain, ditches, septic, or surface waters;

				get a discharge permit or authorization to discharge to the sewer; use hazardous waste disposal firm to manage
Paint stripping with chemicals	Spent stripper is most likely a dangerous waste (flammable, corrosive or toxic); Heavy metals in the paint	Use alternative methods or less hazardous strippers	Contain spent stripper, label and accumulate in proper containers, in secondary containment.	Check with your local solid waste or health department – you may be eligible for disposal at a moderate risk waste facility; use a hazardous waste disposal firm to manage

### Special Requirements For Lead-Based Paint Removal

Lead-based paint removal is regulated and a contractor must follow specific requirements to protect workers, residents, children, and the environment. Mechanical paint removal techniques such as sanding, scraping, or abrasive blasting create dust and paint chips and are not recommended for lead-based paint removal.

- The following U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development web site provides links to excellent resources regarding lead-based paint: <http://www.hud.gov/lea/lealinks.html>.
- If you do not have Internet access, you can also contact the National Lead Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-424-LEAD.
- The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries has information on worker safety requirements.
- Contact the WISHA division for more information at 1-800-423-7233 or visit their WISHA web site at [www.wa.gov/lni/wisha](http://www.wa.gov/lni/wisha) or contact Labor & Industries Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP) program at 1-888-667-4277 or visit their web site at [www.wa.gov/lni/sharp](http://www.wa.gov/lni/sharp).

### For More Information

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For further assistance in reducing and properly managing your surface preparation wastes, call the nearest Ecology regional office.

Central Regional Office	(509) 575-2491
Eastern Regional Office	(509) 456- 2926
Southwest Regional Office	(360) 407-6300
Northwest Regional Office	(425) 649-7000

*If you have special accommodation needs or require this publication in alternative format, please contact David Zink at (360)407-6752 (Voice) or (360) 407-6066 (TDD).*

<sup>1</sup> Sanding/scraping and blast media wastes that are dangerous wastes under Category D, state that toxic criteria may qualify for management as conditionally excluded Special Waste. See Ecology publication #96-1254-HWTR “Management Requirements for Special Waste” for more information

<sup>2</sup> Includes: lead, chromium, cadmium, zinc, copper, mercury and tributyltin used for pigments or as anti-foulants

<sup>3</sup> All surface preparation wastes must be evaluated to determine if they are dangerous waste by using knowledge, or by sending samples to a lab for analysis

\* Spent copper or nickel slag blast media may be dangerous waste for state criteria of toxicity