

## *Mechanical & Automotive Industries Fact Sheet* *Hazardous Waste Management in BC*

Automotive repair and recycling, small engine repair and other mechanical shops generate a variety of hazardous wastes. These wastes must be handled, labeled, stored, transported and disposed of in compliance with the **Hazardous Waste Regulation** and the **BC Environmental Management Act**.

Many of these are obvious, such as used oil and filters, used transmission fluids and filters, drained anti-freeze, used sorbents and spent solvents. Not as obvious? These include switches used for convenience lighting in hoods and trunks, which often contain mercury. Lead is found in wheel weights, batteries, battery cable ends, radiators, heater cores, steering columns and soldered parts.

### ***Managing Automotive Hazardous Waste***

Before a vehicle can be painted, it must be prepped. The surface is cleaned, old paint stripped off and body filler removed and/or applied. Hazardous wastes can include contaminated wash water, leftover filler materials, sanding dust (which may contain heavy metals from the paint), spilled or leftover paints, solvents and thinners.

Shop owners or operators are responsible for characterizing their waste. If they determine that their waste is hazardous, they must manage it accordingly.

The hazardous waste must be stored in appropriate containers that are properly labeled, kept in proper storage areas and disposed of in accordance with the **Hazardous Waste Regulation**.

The generator of hazardous wastes also has the responsibility to prepare proper shipping documentation (the "Manifest") before tendering it to a licensed waste transporter and an authorized waste receiver. Generators must also obtain a BC Generator Registration Number, depending on the quantity of waste produced or stored.

Please refer to the fact sheet: ***Generators of Hazardous Waste*** for a more comprehensive explanation of a generator's responsibilities.

There are penalties for non-compliance in the forms of fines and possible imprisonment. Please refer to ***Section 10, Division 1 of the Environmental Management Act*** for further details.

***If you are unsure if a particular waste is hazardous, you should retain the services of a qualified hazardous waste consultant, or contact a reputable hazardous waste management company for advice.***

# BCEIA

British Columbia  
Environment Industry  
Association



[www.bceia.com](http://www.bceia.com)

## Hazardous Materials



### **Sulphuric Acid**

Vehicle batteries are a source of sulphuric acid.



### **Mercury**

Mercury can be present in switches used for convenience lighting in hoods and trunks.



### **Lead**

Lead is found in wheel weights, batteries, battery cable ends, radiators, heater cores, steering columns and soldered parts.

## Hazardous Waste Manifest

### **The Hazardous Waste Manifest System keeps track of:**

- The date, type, characteristics, quantity and origin of hazardous wastes
- Identity of the transporter of the wastes
- Proof of delivery of waste to the designated waste management site

It also provides a signed record (Manifest copy) for all parties, confirming that the wastes have been received and how they are intended to be managed.

### **For Further Information:**

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### **Need More Information?**

Contact the nearest regional office of the BC Ministry of Environment. A list of regional offices can be found at <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/regops/contacts.html> Or you can find your nearest Ministry of the Environment office by phone.

**Victoria: (250) 387-6121**

**Vancouver: (604) 660-2421**

**Elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867**

**Outside BC: (604) 660-2421**

There are links to the relevant legislation, as well as other helpful information on the BC Ministry of Environment's Hazardous Wastes Homepage, <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/hazwaste/index.htm>

**For more specific information please see the other fact sheets in this series**

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**or visit Hazardous Waste BC at**  
<http://www.hazwastebc.com>