



Automotive Paints, Thinners and Solvents

Hazardous wastes such as paints, thinners and solvents are banned from landfill and must not be discharged to stormwater or sewerage systems.

In recent years, the Automotive Industry has been moving towards waterborne paints for spray painting, which are more environmentally friendly, are safer for employees to use and easier to dispose of than solvent based paints.

REDUCE

Try to reduce the amount of materials coming into your business by keeping the smallest practical quantity on site. This will reduce the amount of waste you need to store and dispose. Maintaining environmentally-friendly parts washers may also reduce solvent use.

RECYCLING AND REUSE

Solvents can be recycled using a purpose built machine that distils and cleans solvents, making them suitable for reuse. Acetone and paint thinners can be recycled this way. If your business has not recently looked at solvent recycling, consider this option as the cost of solvents is increasing and the technology has come a long way in the past 30 years.

DISPOSAL

If you have hazardous waste, you are responsible for ensuring that it is appropriately stored and collected or transported to a suitably licenced waste facility.

If you are not recycling and reusing paints, thinners and solvents in your business, appoint an appropriately licensed contractor to collect and recycle or dispose the materials for you. Refer to www.businessrecycling.com.au for a list of service providers.

PENALTIES

Improper disposal of paints, thinners and solvents has the potential to harm the environment. There are significant penalties that may apply to a business or individual who causes environmental harm.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The MTA is dedicated to assisting with all your environmental needs including which business may be able to assist you with your environmental requirements. If you have any queries, please contact the MTA on environmental@mta-sa.asn.au.

To further improve your business's environmental performance, the Green Stamp accreditation has been specifically developed for the automotive industry, for more information contact the WR team on 8291 2000.



