



SFDPH GREEN SCENE

POLLUTION PREVENTION NEWS

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A publication of the Environmental Health Green Programs
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Visit us... online @the Green Programs Reference Center

Want to learn about green any time, day or night? Our new online learning center is a hub for industry updates and research on pollution prevention (P2) and toxics reduction.

We provide information pertinent to industries such as restaurants, auto repair, auto body, printers, garment cleaners, salons, marinas and commercial building maintenance.

Just click here to visit
www.sfdph.org/dph/EH/Green/ReferenceCenter.asp

You'll find information about solvents and other chemical products, and new technologies that are greener alternatives to harmful pollutants used in

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businesses. Let us know if you have articles or other information to add!

Further, the Green Programs web pages will share updates on regulations and compliance. Being in compliance is the first step to achieving Clean & Green or Green Business award status.

We are also available to answer your questions.

SF creates list of energy-efficient, low-mercury lighting

www.sfenvironment.org/our_programs/interests.html?ssi=9&ti=22&ii=154

How much toxic mercury is in fluorescent lighting products? Manufacturers are not required to disclose those numbers. To address this issue, SF Department of the Environment created the nation's first list of the amount of mercury in energy efficient, long-lasting lighting products by major manufacturers.

Businesses are urged to use the list of SF Approved Lighting before buying bulbs, tubes, or ballasts to:

- Find over 700 energy-efficient, long-lasting lighting products that have the least amount of mercury.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs or compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and save \$30 or more in electricity costs over each CFL's lifetime.
- Safely dispose of lighting.

BAAQMD adopts graphic arts cleanup materials standards

On November 19, 2008, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) amended Reg. 8, Rule 20 "Graphic Arts Printing and Coating

Operations." Some of the amendments require the lithographic and screen printing industries to reduce the VOC content of cleanup materials.

Please see GRAPHIC ARTS on page 4

Filter technology saves money, helps environment

Touting "the most advanced technological leap in the engine oil filter industry for over 30 years," SOMS Technologies introduces the microGreen filter, a double filter that reduces the frequency of oil changes, preserves the environment, saves time and most importantly money.



Carrying the appearance of a standard oil filter, the microGreen has a filter for contaminants as small as 25 microns and also has a Teflon filter for contaminants down to two microns. The filter can cost 2 to 3 times the typical oil filters, but you change the filter every 6,000 miles, or twice per year, and change your oil every 24,000 to 30,000, or every two years. And aside from saving up to 70% of maintenance costs and offering up to a 5 percent better fuel efficiency, the filter also creates a 70% savings in engine oil use.

"Our environment is no longer a fad. It is a way of life," says Steve Kirchner, company chief operating officer. The product is available for consumer purchase on the company Web site, www.microgreenfilter.com. SOMS aims to expand to more nationwide retailers and repair shops.

Source: Aftermarket Business Magazine

What's in that aerosol can?

Does that aerosol can hold the key to causing or preventing cancer or other serious illnesses? We actively work with businesses to assist in the reduction of toxic ingredients that cause cancer, reproductive harm or other chronic illnesses. Prop 65* warnings are a good place to begin when working with suppliers. Businesses should specify avoiding products containing these ingredients and other known toxins:

- Brake cleaners may contain hexane
- Spray lubricants, strippers and adhesive removers may contain methylene chloride, trichloroethylene and/or perchloroethylene.



- General purpose degreasers may contain Prop 65 solvents such as toluene, n-propyl bromide and ethylbenzene.

Spraying chemicals from aerosol cans makes them available in tiny droplets that can easily enter the lungs, eyes, skin, etc. We encourage businesses to look for Prop 65 warnings on MSDSs or product labels and to ask their suppliers for greener alternatives. More information is on our website at www.sfdph.org/dph/EH/Green.

*Prop 65 requires businesses to post signs warning customers about the presence and/or use of harmful chemicals listed under this regulation.

"We encourage businesses to ask their suppliers for greener alternatives."

Get the Lead Out: New Wheel Weights Regulation



Wheel weights, clipped to the rim of automobile wheels to balance the tires, often come loose and fall off. Then they are either washed into storm drains and end up in waterways or are gathered during street cleaning and placed in municipal landfills. These weights are susceptible to corrosion.

Currently there are no US federal regulations governing the use of traditional lead wheel weights. However, the US EPA will pursue a ban on their manufacture and distribution, pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Lead weights are already illegal in EU and Japan. On average, 8 ounces of lead wheel weights are attached to each automobile in the US. Approximately 1.6 million pounds of lead are lost annually when wheel weights fall off during normal driving conditions (e.g., hitting a pot hole).

During 2009, sale of lead weights was being phased out in California under a court settlement between Oakland-based Center for Environmental Health against Chrysler and the three largest makers of lead wheel weights for the US market. SB 757 was introduced in February 2009 and adopted into law. This bill prohibits the manufacture, sale, or installation in California of any wheel weight that contains lead starting on January 1, 2010.

Some public fleets such as San Francisco's Central Shops and Contra Costa County had already phased out lead weights, replacing them with steel or other metals. In addition to large public fleets, every American motorist can make a difference by requesting non-lead wheel weights for their tires.

For more information:

www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/ToxicsInProducts/leadwheelweights.cfm

www.epa.gov/region09/waste/features/leadweights/ www.epa.gov/osw/partnerships/npep/

SF Environment Promotes Toxics Reduction in Garment Cleaning

http://www.sfenvironment.org/our_programs/interests.html?ssi=2&ti=3&ii=27

The traditional dry cleaning chemical perchlorethylene, or "perc", is a carcinogen and environmental toxicant which leaches into ground water, contaminates soil and air and leaves a residue in cleaned garments. Because of these risks, in January 2007 the California Air Resources Board (CARB) ruled to phase out the use of perc throughout the state. California is also requiring all perc dry cleaners within 300 feet of residences, schools, hospitals and other sensitive areas to be phased out by 2010. All perc machines must be phased out by 2023.

SF Environment's research found that many perc alternatives pose health and environmental concerns despite being marketed as "eco-

friendly". However, professional wet cleaning is a less hazardous, non-smog forming technology, using specialized equipment to clean garments with water and soaps. Businesses should be cautioned about anned spot removers with this technology.

Another "green" alternative is CO₂ cleaning, which uses liquid CO₂ harvested from industrial processes to clean garments. Due to the current lack of availability and limited use by cleaners, there is insufficient data to fully assess CO₂ technology.

While wet and CO₂ cleaning have not been widely adopted yet, CARB has a \$10,000 grant incentive program to encourage perc-using cleaners to change to CO₂ or wet cleaning.

The SF Green Purchasing Ordinance & You

Every time you buy something through your City department, you can help protect our health and environment. All you have to do is check the SF Approved Catalog before using City funds to make any purchase that is direct, service contract, Delegated Dept./ Prop Q.

The SF Approved Catalog helps City staff:

- Comply with SF Green Purchasing, Integrated Pest Management, and Hazardous Waste Laws.
- Get recognition for buying green. See who made the list for buying the most/least green products.
- Earn credits for US Green Building Council (USGBC) certification (LEED).

View the Catalog at www.sfenvironment.org/sfapproved for over 1000 products, citywide term contracts, city-approved vendors, and summaries of cost savings & City mandates. Sign up for email alerts and get a free consultation on how SF Environment can help you buy green and dispose of toxic products.

City College, SF Unified School District, SF General and Laguna Honda Hospitals are not required, but are encouraged, to use the SF Approved Catalog.

Get Free Bins & Posters to Recycle Almost Everything

Wonder what to do with your department's unwanted appliances, batteries, chemicals, electronics, furniture, office supplies, etc? Visit www.sfenvironment.org/sfgovrecycles to order free bins or posters to promote recycling those items. We also encourage the public to use the EcoFINDER recycling directory on SFE's home page to quickly find where to recycle items.

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The current VOC limit for cleaners used for lithographic blankets and rollers is 300 grams per liter (g/l) VOC or 10 mm Hg vapor pressure. All companies have complied with this standard using the vapor pressure limit rather than the VOC limit. As of July 1, 2009, manual cleaning of lithographic presses must use products having a VOC content of 500 g/l or less. Automated cleaning materials and any presses using UV curable ink are allowed a higher limit, 650 g/l. As of July 1, 2010, manual and automated cleaning materials on presses using all types of inks must have VOCs of 100 g/l or less.

The VOC limit for cleaning screen printing equipment is 300 g/l or 10 mm Hg vapor pressure. Again, the industry opted to follow the vapor pressure limit rather than the VOC limit. On July 1, 2009, the allowed VOCs of screen printing cleanup materials will be 500 g/l and on July 1, 2011, the limit will be 100 g/l.

The rule also focuses on labeling of cleaning products. As of July 1, 2009, manufacturers

and suppliers must specify the VOC content and any recommended dilution factor or mix ratio for cleanup materials distributed in the BAAQMD.

The Institute for Research and Technical Assistance (IRTA) conducted a number of projects in the South Coast Basin (Southern CA) to identify, test and demonstrate low-VOC, low toxicity alternatives for lithographic and screen printing cleanup operations. Alternatives that proved effective in IRTA's projects included soy based, water based and acetone cleaners.

Acetone is lower in toxicity than most other organic solvents and is not classified as a VOC.

Suppliers developed low-VOC alternatives in the South Coast Basin that meet new SCAQMD limits. Suppliers in the Bay Area must test and implement similar products with their customers.

For questions on cleaning alternatives, contact Katy Wolf at IRTA at (818) 244-0300.