



# ***Auto Body/Collision Repair***

## ***Hazardous Waste Determination: Sandblasting Waste***

**Hazardous waste determinations of all wastes are the responsibility of the generator.**

Sandblasting dispenses sand or other media at high velocity to remove clear coat, paint, rust and other surface imperfections from metal surfaces. Since most auto body paint contains heavy metals, such as lead, chromium and barium, the sandblast waste could potentially be harmful to human health and the environment. Anyone engaged in an activity that emits fugitive dust is required to take precautions throughout the duration of the activity to prevent, abate and control the emissions.

If sandblasting outside:

1. Do not sandblast in windy conditions.
2. Place a tarp on the ground or blast on paved surfaces so the waste can be easily collected. Do not leave sandblast waste on the ground. This is considered improper disposal of a solid or hazardous waste and must be managed accordingly.
3. Collect the sandblast waste and manage as a hazardous waste or conduct a hazardous waste determination. Since there is no environmental data sheet (EDS) for rust or paint chips, a representative sample of the collected waste must be sent to an environmental laboratory. Request a TCLP test of the eight RCRA metals. Call a couple of labs for a quote. A list of labs is available at [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwcb/documents/labs\\_hw.pdf](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwcb/documents/labs_hw.pdf).
4. Compare the test results to the maximum concentration/regulatory level: arsenic 5.0 ppm, barium 100.0 ppm, cadmium 1.0 ppm, chromium 5.0 ppm, lead 5.0 ppm, mercury 0.2 ppm, selenium 1.0 ppm, silver 5.0 ppm.
  - a. If the results are at or greater than the regulatory limit, the sandblast waste must be managed as a hazardous waste.
  - b. If the results are less than the regulatory limit, the sandblast waste can be managed as a solid waste.
5. Save the test results in your files.

If sandblasting inside, follow the same steps 3, 4 and 5 as noted above.

For questions on fugitive dust requirements, contact Air Resources Division at (603) 271-1370 or [desair@des.nh.gov](mailto:desair@des.nh.gov).

For questions on hazardous waste determinations, contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance Section at (603) 271-2942 or [hwcomp@des.nh.gov](mailto:hwcomp@des.nh.gov).

**For more information:**

**Visit:** [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov) on the A to Z list “Auto Body Shop Assistance”