

WOOD FINISHING AND FURNITURE REPAIR

WHY BE CONCERNED?

Home-based businesses often use a variety of processes and chemicals that may generate wastes that differ from the domestic wastes generated by a residential home. Potential hazardous materials associated with wood finishing and furniture repair include paints, sealers, glues, solvents, stain, and topcoats. Home-based businesses that offer wood finishing/furniture repair services generate the same types of wastes that some commercial businesses do. These wastes may include spent hazardous materials, over-spray, hazardous air pollutant emissions, and rags. These chemicals and associated wastes should be used, stored, and disposed of in a cautious manner to prevent environmental contamination and abide with the law. While it may seem that your contribution to pollution is minor, effects of chemicals, runoff, and wasted water from hundreds or thousands of homes in your region can add up.

IDENTIFY ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Processes and potential wastes associated with this business/hobby that could harm the environment are listed below. Check the activities or conditions that apply to your business.

- Cutting/sawing.
- Sanding.
- Painting and/or staining.
- Washing paint brushes, spray equipment.
- Handling materials that can spill (such as solvents, paints, stains).
- Storing paints, sealers, glues, solvents, stains, or other potentially hazardous materials.
- Managing wastes such as leftover paints or stains.
- Have abandoned or unused well on site.

IDENTIFY METHODS OF WASTE DISPOSAL

Check the waste disposal methods that you use.

- Municipal sanitary sewer
- Septic system or lagoon
- Ground, storm sewer, or surface water
- Licensed hazardous waste disposal option
- Licensed sanitary landfill/transfer station
- Compost
- Recycle
- On-site landfill (prohibited in most cases)
- Incineration/on-site burning (see Solid Waste section)

If your home-based business discharges its non-domestic waste to a septic system, then your business is required to complete and submit an inventory form to KDHE. For inventory forms, call KDHE at 785-296-5560. Some wastes associated with a home business are considered "industrial waste" and may not be disposed of in a septic tank or domestic lagoon. Non-domestic waste from your home-based occupation should not be disposed of in a sanitary sewer without written permission from the municipality. Never put wastes in a storm drain or dump on the ground! See Wastewater section in the front of this publication.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Determine which wastes are hazardous wastes, solid wastes, or recyclable.
- Solvent-based paints, thinners, and adhesives that become wastes are generally considered ignitable, and need to be handled as hazardous wastes (see Hazardous Waste section).
- Water-based or latex paints and associated wastes are not considered hazardous unless they contain metals such as lead, mercury, or chrome (consult the MSDS). When these types of products become wastes, they can simply be solidified with an absorbent material, like kitty litter, and then be sent to a permitted sanitary landfill.
- Empty containers can be sent to a permitted sanitary landfill (see Introduction for definition of "empty containers").
- Wood preservative that becomes waste may be hazardous due to its toxicity and/or ignitability. The waste need to be evaluated, handled carefully, and disposed of as hazardous wastes (see Hazardous Waste section).



- Should a spill occur, use kitty litter, vermiculite, newspaper, rags, or dirt to contain and absorb the liquid. NEVER wash it down the drain or into the gutter. Determine whether the waste is hazardous or not. If non-hazardous, place in plastic bag or sealable can and put in trash. If hazardous, then see hazardous waste section at the front of this publication to determine disposal options.
- Use “dry cleanup” methods. Scrape and scoop before washing down.
- Never dump or burn leftover paints, solvents, etc. on your property, particularly near wells or water sources. Never pour these products down storm sewers or sanitary sewers.
- Never burn hazardous materials, as they may produce toxic gases, airborne particles, and hazardous ash.
- Compost untreated sawdust and tiny wood scraps.
- Wastes determined to be hazardous, such as solvents, must be disposed of in an appropriate manner. If you are a business and considered a small quantity generator (SQG), see the Hazardous Waste section at the front of this module to determine your disposal options. It is best to fully use hazardous products, when possible, so there is no waste.
- Keep waste streams separate for reuse, recycling, or treatment. Keep non-hazardous materials from becoming contaminated.
- Properly dispose of hazardous wastes and maintain disposal records for three or more years. Depending on the amount you generate, this may be required by law (see Hazardous Waste section).
- Unused or abandoned wells should be plugged in accordance with KDHE regulations. Abandoned wells, if not properly sealed, can provide a direct route for contamination to enter the groundwater. In addition, open wells are a safety threat to small children and animals. A record of the plugging should be filed with KDHE. For more information, consult the general Water section of this publication, or call KDHE at 785-296-3565.

Disposal of any wastes other than domestic wastes to an on-site septic system or lagoon is prohibited. Never dump wastes onto the ground or into a storm drain. This practice can result in the contamination of streams, lakes, or groundwater.

POLLUTION PREVENTION AND WASTE MINIMIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

- When using spray guns, look for an ideal air and fluid pressure. It should be high enough to provide good atomization. Overspray, blowback, and worker exposure should be minimized.
- Position larger pieces behind smaller ones to catch overspray.
- Adjust spray patterns to fit the size of pieces you are spraying.
- Minimize cleanup solvent waste by dedicating guns for certain materials or scheduling jobs in batches.
- Minimize the number of times you clean your equipment. Apply light-colored finishing materials first, then progressively use darker coatings whenever possible.
- Flush equipment first with dirty solvent before final cleaning with virgin solvent, or preclean items with rags before cleaning with solvents.
- Use solvents until they lose their effectiveness, as opposed to when they look dirty.
- Use rubber wipers instead of rags to remove coatings from tank walls.
- ALWAYS read the label and follow directions.
- Substitute less toxic or non-toxic substances, where possible. Consider using water-based paints and solvents if you are currently using solvent-based.
- Purchase and store minimum amounts of products for short periods.
- Keep storage and work areas clean and well organized. Keep all containers properly labeled.
- Store products in a manner to prevent spills, leaks, and environmental contamination. Obtain material safety data sheets.
- If mixing is needed, place receiving container in a larger pan or on an absorbant pad that can be discarded.
- Store paints, solvents, etc. in a locked cabinet or building. Ventilate the area.
- Use only safe, approved, or original sale containers for storage.

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, SBEAP, is a confidential non-regulatory program funded by the state in an effort to assist small businesses with environmental concerns. Contact the SBEAP at 800-578-8898 or www.sbeap.org if you have questions.

- Keep containers inside a bucket or other larger container that can prevent leaks from spreading.
- Think about how you would handle a spill, should it occur.
- Periodically inspect containers for leaks.
- Keep accurate records/inventory of material usage. Mark purchase date on each container and practice "first in, first out" so that older materials are used up before new ones are opened.
- Keep all containers covered to prevent evaporation, contamination, spillage, or drying out of contents.
- If your business is not connected to a municipal wastewater treatment facility, obtain permission from the local wastewater treatment plant to periodically dispose of wash water to its system. This will prevent wastewater from draining to the storm or on-site septic system or lagoon.
- Abandoned wells should be plugged and reported in accordance with KDHE regulations (see Water section).

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

- Your county K-State Research and Extension office.
- The Kansas SBEAP has several publications that address these issues of regulatory compliance and pollution prevention. See the list of SBEAP publications at the end of this manual, or go to **www.sbeap.org** to view or download.
- For questions call 800-578-8898. All services are free and confidential.
- A summary of environmental laws is found in the introduction/preface. The following laws may be applicable to this business:
 - wastewater regulations
 - solid and hazardous waste regulations
 - storm water regulations
- Regulatory compliance information can be viewed or downloaded from the KDHE Web site at **www.kdhe.state.ks.us**.
- See Resources section at the back of this document.

ACTION STEPS

What can you do to reduce wastes or environmental risks?	Set target dates for action.

Notes: