



## 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](http://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](mailto:environmental@mta-sa.asn.au).

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## Automotive Refrigerants

When released into the atmosphere refrigerants from automotive air conditioners have the potential to deplete the earth's protective ozone layer and to contribute to climate change.

The refrigerant gases that contribute to ozone depletion, as recognised in Australian law include:

- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC).
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC).
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC).
- Perfluorocarbons (PFC).

Any individual or business that acquires, possess and/or disposes of refrigerants must hold a Refrigerant Trading Authorisation. The MTA delivers an air conditioning course that is the automotive industry's pre-requisite for an Authorisation.

### RECYCLING AND REUSE

Refrigerants may be recovered, cleaned and reused by appropriately licenced technicians. Any person who handles refrigerant or works on refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) equipment, must hold a valid Refrigerant Handling Licence. The Licence covers activities including decanting refrigerant; installing, commissioning, servicing and maintaining RAC equipment; decommissioning and disposing of RAC equipment.

For information in relation to safe disposal methods of refrigerants, contact the Australian Refrigeration Council at [enquire@arctick.org](mailto:enquire@arctick.org).

### STORING REFRIGERANTS

Containers used to store refrigerant must be kept in a place that is:

- Well ventilated.
- Secure.
- Cool (at or below 48°C unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer).
- Away from fire risk.
- Shielded from sources of direct heat.

### PENALTIES

In accordance with the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 and the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995, penalties may apply for persons or companies that do not hold, or are in breach of a Refrigerant Handling Licence or Refrigerant Trading Authorisation. Breaches of the Act or Regulations are investigated and may result in escalated compliance and enforcement actions.

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## Lead Acid Batteries

Lead acid batteries are banned from landfill in South Australia, as they contain toxic heavy metals. They also contain non-renewable metals, including lead, which can be recycled.

### RECYCLING

Please visit [www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au) for a list of businesses that are able to recycle lead acid batteries and information on where to find them.

### TRANSPORT

Lead acid batteries are classified as a 'Dangerous Good' under the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (ADG Code). Any organisation involved in transporting used lead acid batteries must comply with the Code (refer to the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative website).

The transportation of used lead acid batteries (ULAB) is not to be taken lightly. If a ULAB is not sealed, you will need a Class A licence to transport it. Also, if you are handling more than 500 ULABs per year, you will need a licence from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). They can be contacted on 8204 2058 or through [licensing.epa@epa.sa.gov.au](mailto:licensing.epa@epa.sa.gov.au).

### STORAGE

Used lead acid batteries need to be carefully managed to avoid pollution and environmental harm, and to avoid skin irritation or burns that may occur from handling damaged or leaking batteries. Obligations for businesses handling dangerous goods, including ULAB, are outlined in the National Code for Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods.

In general, when storing lead acid batteries prior to disposal:

- Keep them away from other chemicals and food.
- Use protective clothing to handle used batteries.
- Keep them away from inhabited buildings.
- Keep them away from heat sources (strong light, sun, oven or machinery).

### PENALTIES

There are significant penalties that may apply to a business or individual who causes environmental harm, including failure to properly store or dispose of hazardous waste such as batteries.

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## Managing Air Quality

Air pollutants in the automotive industry, including fumes, gases, dust and smoke can have a detrimental effect on the environment and health of employees.

Air pollutants from a vehicle are regarded as excessive if visible smoke or exhaust is emitted continuously for longer than 10 seconds.

### REDUCING AIR POLLUTANTS

Air pollutants and associated health and environmental risks can be reduced by:

- Ensuring good ventilation in the workshop.
- Limiting engine operating times.
- Ensuring volatile liquids (such as solvents, paints and thinners) are stored correctly.
- Using water based cleaning fluids where possible.
- Ensuring dust extraction systems are in place and used in accordance with operating procedures.
- Using a damp cloth or mist spray vacuum cleaner to clean brakes instead of compressed air.
- Ensuring any dust that has been picked up is stored in a sealed container (e.g. bag or box) to prevent dust escaping.

Consult with your employees to make them aware of these practices and seek their input for further ways to reduce air pollutants.

### PENALTIES

It is an offence to cause environmental harm, which can include air pollution related to dusts and odours through the inefficient operation or maintenance of equipment or handling of materials.

Depending on the degree of pollution, there are significant penalties that may apply to a business or individual who causes environmental harm.

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## Panels

The design of vehicles has undergone a period of rapid change to reduce injuries in collisions. This has meant that many panels are made up of different plastics and metal alloys, making them stronger and light-weight.

This change in materials, along with difficulty in repairing and low cost of replacement panels, has played a role in reducing the amount of panels that are being recycled.

### RECYCLING AND REUSE

If a panel is unable to be reused within your business, there may be others in South Australia willing to take them.

If panels are sent away for recycling, it may be necessary to separate them into recyclable components such as metals and plastic. Visit [www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au) to generate a list of metal and plastic recyclers near you. Contact them to check if you need to separate materials before sending for recycling.

Some MTA members use Everlast Automotive's 'bumper exchange' service. Visit [www.everlastauto.com.au](http://www.everlastauto.com.au) for information and contact details.

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## Plastic

The use of plastics in vehicles has continued to grow. Incredibly innovative ways to use plastic have been found to improve fuel efficiency and make cars safer. A lighter car consumes less fuel, which translates into less exhaust emissions while the safety benefits from plastic seatbelts and airbags has saved countless lives.

### RECYCLING

For plastics to be recycled, they need to be separated from other materials such as metal, rubber, glass and foam. Contact a plastics recycler to determine if the type of plastic you have can be recycled, and check if you need to separate it from other materials before sending it to be recycled.

Visit [www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au) to generate a list of plastic recyclers in near you.

Recyclers typically clean, shred, and pelletise the plastic making it suitable for use as a feedstock for manufacturing recycled products such as park benches and playground equipment. Some car manufacturers also use recycled plastics on non-visible parts including underbody aerodynamic shields and subsurface exterior black parts.

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## Scrap Metal

Aluminium car rims, door handles and other scrap metal from damaged and decommissioned vehicles can be sold at scrap metal yards, where they'll be melted down for recycling into new products.

### RECYCLING

Recycling waste metals is not only economical, but it also benefits the environment in many ways including:

- Preventing greater land degradation from mining.
- Saving natural resources and raw materials.
- Reduces landfill.

Metals such as copper, aluminium, brass, stainless steel and bronze attract more money per tonne than steel and iron. Steel can be repeatedly recycled without reducing the quality of the product.

Visit [www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au) to generate a list of metal recyclers near you.

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## Tyres

Across the motor vehicle industry tyres are a key waste product which may result in fire hazards and additional storage complications for businesses.

There are many challenges to recycle tyres, with industry and all governments looking to find solutions to help develop new ways to re-use tyres.

### TYRE STEWARDSHIP IN AUSTRALIA

Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) has been set up with the support of government and industry as a way to promote increasing the number of tyres recycled in Australia, and development of viable markets for end-of-life tyres. TSA has representatives from across the supply chain including retailers, manufacturers, recyclers and collectors.

If you have tyres as a waste product, consider voluntary involvement with the TSA, looking at the benefits from an environmental, economic and marketing perspective. For more information, go to [www.tyrestewardship.org.au](http://www.tyrestewardship.org.au).

### RECYCLING

Stockpiles of tyres may pose a health risk and should be recycled or disposed of quickly as, among other things, they provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, rats and mice.

Use a reputable tyre collector or recycling service – preferably one that is TSA Accredited – to recycle or otherwise dispose of end-of-life tyres. Visit [www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au) to generate a list of tyre recyclers near you (search the 'Rubber' category).

There are many uses for end-of-life tyres that are sent for recycling, including road surfacing, soft fall playground surfacing, industrial and commercial flooring, and tyre derived fuels.

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## Tips For Energy Efficiency

Being energy efficient means using less energy (electricity, gas, fuel) to provide the same level of service, and it can save you money. Here's some tips to get you started.

### ASSESS AND MEASURE

Think about how, where and when your business uses energy. Consult with staff to identify ways that energy consumption could be reduced.

Check utility bills to see how much energy you use, and monitor these over time to see how energy use patterns change, and how and when you might be able to make changes. Don't forget to take into consideration workloads and busy periods, as energy consumption may change depending on workload.

You might like to consider using the services of a professional who can analyse energy consumption on your behalf and recommend areas for improvement. This can be a valuable exercise, as they have exposure to many businesses and experience offering cost effective solutions.

### AVOID AND REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

There are many practical ways in which your business can minimise energy consumption to improve efficiency and your bottom line. Start by looking at the following options:

- Many electronic devices (such as computers and TVs) draw power when in standby mode, so it's better to switch them off at the power point whenever possible (i.e. after hours) to avoid 'electricity leaks'.
- Purchase energy efficient equipment. Look for the higher star rating on the items you purchase. These typically use less electricity - good for the environment and business expenses.
- Consider lighting options. Light emitting diodes (LEDs) and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) use less power and last longer than traditional incandescent lamps. Automatic light settings can help reduce energy use. Also consider how

much lighting you need – could some lights be switched off or removed, or could you use natural light.

- Complete regular and systematic checks on equipment such as compressors and hoses to ensure there are no leaks.
- Check temperature settings to avoid using excess energy: set fridges between 3°C and 5°C and freezers between -15°C and -18°C; set air conditioners at 24°C or warmer in summer and 18°C or cooler in winter.
- If you are considering investing in solar power, it's a good idea to check energy efficiency first. That way, you can help to ensure any power used is going to the most effective and efficient use, rather than using solar power for wasteful activities.

### GRANT INFORMATION

Visit [www.business.gov.au/Assistance](http://www.business.gov.au/Assistance) or [www.grantassist.sa.gov.au](http://www.grantassist.sa.gov.au) to search for available grants that could support your business to become more energy efficient.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

The Federal Government has created a factsheet with further information about energy management. To view this information, please go to [www.business.gov.au/Info/Run/Energy-management](http://www.business.gov.au/Info/Run/Energy-management).

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## Office Waste

The waste hierarchy is a nationally and internationally accepted guide for prioritising waste management practices. Following it can help improve environmental performance and your bottom line. The hierarchy is set out as follows:

- Most preferable – Avoid excess consumption and creating waste, for example, read on screen to avoid printing reports; avoid using disposable cups and cutlery.
- Reduce what you can't avoid, for example, print double-sided and in black and white whenever possible; only order what you need; store the smallest practical quantity onsite.
- Reuse as much as possible, for example, use crockery rather than disposable cups; use the back of one-sided printed material for note paper.
- Recycle materials that cannot be reused – refer below for examples - ensure materials are segregated for recycling (not mixed with non-recyclable materials) and contract a service provider for collection (visit [www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au) to find service providers).
- Least preferable – Dispose of materials that cannot be reused or recycled by contracting a waste collection service.

There are a number of waste streams in offices that you can avoid, reduce, reuse or recycle including:

### PAPER AND CARDBOARD

In many offices, paper and cardboard makes up to 70% of the waste. Organise a separate paper and cardboard recycling bin for collection. To make recycling more convenient, place paper recycling bins or boxes at desks or other places close to where paper and cardboard waste occurs.

Identify ways paper consumption can be avoided or reduced in your office, such as cutting down on printing, printing double-sided, reusing folders, and reading newspapers and emails on screen.

### BATTERIES

Using rechargeable batteries is great for waste avoidance and reduction, but if you need disposable batteries in the office, set up a disposal point (small container) to collect dead batteries, which can be taken to your nearest Battery World store\* for recycling.

### MOBILE PHONES

Collect and recycle old mobile phones by using one of the free mobile phone recycling programs such as:

- MobileMuster ([www.mobilemuster.com.au](http://www.mobilemuster.com.au)).
- Mazuma ([www.mazumamobile.com.au](http://www.mazumamobile.com.au)).

### PRINTER AND TONER CARTRIDGES

Printer cartridges can be recycled through free collection services, such as 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' (C4PA). You can register for a collection box through C4PA if you use more than 3 cartridges a month, or smaller amounts can be taken to Australia Post outlets for recycling.

Visit [www.cartridges.planetark.org](http://www.cartridges.planetark.org) for details.

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#### LIGHT GLOBES

Banner Hardware, Mitre 10 and True Value stores accept small quantities of light bulbs for recycling. For larger quantities, you can arrange a recycling collection box through service providers such as:

- Lamp Recyclers ([www.lamprecyclers.com.au](http://www.lamprecyclers.com.au)).
- CMA Eco Cycle ([www.cmaecocycle.net/lighting-electrical](http://www.cmaecocycle.net/lighting-electrical)).

If you're recycling mercury-containing lamps (e.g. fluorescent tubes and/or compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)) consider becoming a signatory to FluoroCycle – visit [www.fluorocycle.org.au/index.php](http://www.fluorocycle.org.au/index.php) for details.

#### WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

If your waste is not collected through local council services, you will need to engage a service provider to remove waste from your premises. It's important to understand the type and quantity of waste your business has in order to set up an appropriate collection, particularly if you want a recycling service, as materials need to be segregated into recyclable groups.

Visit [www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au) to search for service providers in your area.

You may want to request a written contract be established covering the terms of services, including collection timeframes (contract start and end dates; bin collection times), bin types, payment terms, and provision of staff training. Waste contract guidelines are available by contacting Green Industries SA: [www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/contact-us)

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\* Bulk quantities may incur a cost

