

## Running a nail or hair salon? Know Your Environmental Regulations

If you are running a nail salon, beauty shop or barbershop, you need to be aware of the Ohio EPA regulations that apply to your business. If you have wastewater discharges from your business or generate other wastes, Ohio EPA may regulate these activities. It is important to understand and comply with the regulations to help avoid violations.

This fact sheet highlights some of the major Ohio EPA requirements that could apply to your salon. It may not cover every requirement, but will provide you with a starting point in identifying where you might be subject to regulation. You also will need to contact other agencies such as the Cosmetology Board, local building department, fire department, health department, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and others to find out what additional requirements apply.

### Managing Wastes

Products you may use in your business include tints, coloring, peroxide, toners, lighteners, relaxers, polish removers and other chemicals. Outdated products, partially full containers or unwanted products are considered wastes. Under Ohio's regulations, any business that generates a waste needs to evaluate it to see if it is hazardous waste. Some of the products you may use can contain acids, alkalies or flammable solvents which may make these products become hazardous wastes when you can no longer use them. Spent solvent from processing nails may also be hazardous waste. A waste that is ignitable, corrosive, reactive or toxic is defined as a characteristic hazardous waste. In addition, there are specific lists of hazardous wastes in Ohio EPA's regulations.

Under the regulations, hazardous waste must be sent for disposal at a permitted hazardous waste disposal facility. Hazardous waste cannot be disposed of in the trash. To help reduce hazardous waste generation, use up all the products that you purchase and consider reusing solvents where possible. You can call your local Ohio EPA district office, Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization for more information about the hazardous waste regulations.

Non-hazardous wastes that you may generate include clippings, packaging, paper and empty containers that you put in the trash.

### Wastewater

If the sinks in your salon are connected to a public wastewater treatment plant, you may be able to discharge your process wastewater to the treatment plant. Many wastewater treatment plants (also called POTWs) are operated by municipalities. Before you discharge wastewater to the POTW, you need to contact the POTW to see if it can handle the type of wastewater your shop will generate. Depending on the size and nature of your business, you may be required to get a permit before you can discharge your wastewater to the POTW.

It is important to know that Ohio EPA's regulations do not allow for the discharge of process wastewater or chemicals into an on-site sewage treatment system, like a septic tank and leach field. Discharging chemicals into an on-site septic system can kill the helpful bacteria that break down sewage wastes. In addition, chemicals can leach from the system into nearby ground water.



### Lamps

Lamps (for example, fluorescent bulbs) can be hazardous because of the mercury, lead and cadmium they contain. You can manage your hazardous waste lamps under the universal waste (UW) rules instead of the hazardous waste rules. The UW rules eliminate many regulatory requirements such as waste evaluation, manifesting and record keeping. These rules ensure that waste lamps will be properly recycled. Fewer requirements also mean lower compliance costs. For more information about universal waste, go to [epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/Home/universalwaste.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/Home/universalwaste.aspx)

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If you want to run a salon from your home, or from a business location that is connected to an on-site sewage treatment system, you must install a holding tank and have your process wastewater hauled off-site for disposal. A holding tank requires a permit-to-install (PTI) from Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water (DSW). The PTI must be prepared by a professional engineer.

Contact DSW in your local Ohio EPA district office for more information about the wastewater discharge and permitting requirements. You can contact your local water or utilities department to get contact information for your POTW.

## Drinking Water

If your business has its own well that supplies water for drinking, cooking, washing hands, washing dishes or bathing, it may meet Ohio EPA's definition of a public water system. A public water system is one that has at least 15 service connections or regularly provides water to 25 or more people for 60 or more days a year. Under these regulations, you must submit plans for installing or changing a well. In addition, well systems must be tested periodically and the test results reported to Ohio EPA. Contact the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters in your local Ohio EPA district office for more information about well system requirements.

## More Information

If you have questions or need help understanding Ohio EPA's regulations, contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP). OCAPP is a non-regulatory office of Ohio EPA with a goal of helping small businesses comply with environmental regulations and permitting requirements. For more information, contact OCAPP at (800) 329-7518, or visit our website at [epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/](http://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/).

### Central Office

Lazarus Government Center  
50 W. Town St., Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 644-3020

### Central District Office

Lazarus Government Center  
50 W. Town St., Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 728-3778  
(800) 686-2330

### Northwest District Office

347 N. Dunbridge Rd.  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
(419) 352-8461  
(800) 686-6930

### Northeast District Office

2110 E. Aurora Rd.  
Twinsburg, OH 44087  
(330) 963-1200  
(800) 686-6330

### Southeast District Office

2195 E. Front Street  
Logan, OH 43138  
(740) 385-8501  
(800) 686-7330

### Southwest District Office

401 E. Fifth St.  
Dayton, OH 45402  
(937) 285-6357  
(800) 686-8930



*Toll-free numbers are for citizens with questions or concerns about environmental issues.  
The regulated community should use the business line for routine business.  
Spills and emergencies should be reported to (800) 282-9378.*