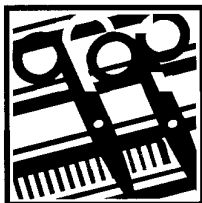


WASTE MINIMIZATION

HAIR & BEAUTY SALONS/BARBER SHOPS



BACKGROUND

Hair salons and barber shops are usually small businesses, but because of their close interaction with the public, they are in a strong position to influence overall waste minimization. By demonstrating a responsible commitment to minimizing their own wastes, such shops can act as positive role models for their clients.

Typically, hair salons and barber shops generate the following wastes:

- paper products (paper towels, newsprint, magazines, office paper, tissues, cotton batten, cardboard packaging)
- organic materials (hair, lunch waste, coffee filters)

- plastic containers, film, gloves
- metal aerosol cans and colourant tubes
- liquid chemicals (antiseptics, perming solutions, hydrogen peroxide, nail polish and remover, aerosols, hair colouring solutions)

This information sheet is intended to help hair salons and barber shops minimize waste. The suggestions presented here have been used successfully in other shops to decrease waste volumes and reduce disposal costs. Commitment to an effective waste minimization program helps protect the environment, reduces liability and can enhance a company's image within its community.

WASTE MINIMIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

The three main ways in which wastes can be minimized are, in order of importance:

1. **Reduce** - change practices, policies and habits which cause wastes to be produced.
2. **Reuse** - recover waste materials and use them "as is" for similar or other purposes.
3. **Recycle** - collect waste materials and process them for use as raw materials or new products.

This section provides many specific suggestions for minimizing the wastes produced by hair salons and barber shops. Many other practices can also be effective and should be considered in implementing an overall waste minimization program.

REDUCE

- Replace paper towels with reusable cloth towels.
- Ask suppliers to provide products such as shampoos and conditioners in refillable containers.

- Provide refillable product containers to clients and perhaps offer a discount for refills.
- Ask suppliers for alternative packaging that uses less plastic and cardboard.
- Use reusable coffee filters or purchase a coffee maker with a built-in filter, or switch to unbleached filters.
- Switch to pump dispensers from aerosols. If aerosols must be used, buy product lines with a low volatile organic compound (VOC) content.
- Use gels and lotions instead of aerosol mousse.
- Use drip pans to catch and reapply perm solution or bleach.
- Ask suppliers for less toxic products such as enzyme-based alternatives to ammonia perm solutions and hydrogen peroxide.
- Completely finish bottles of nail polish and remover before discarding the containers, or donate them to another organization.

REUSE

- Give used magazines to other organizations or friends.
- Make empty containers and cardboard available to other businesses or associations.
- Wash and hang-dry plastic gloves and caps for reuse.

RECYCLE

- Collect waste materials for recycling where facilities exist. Participate in the development of a community recycling program if none exists.
- Discuss with your landlord the possibility of installing recycling bins.
- Ask suppliers if they will take back empty product containers and cardboard for recycling.
- Take waste office paper to a recycling depot.

