How do chemicals get into my body?

Improper use and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes can contaminate our air, water and soil and harm our health. In order to cause health problems, chemicals must enter the body. There are three "routes of entry" or ways a chemical can get into the body:

**NOSE:**
Breathing into the lungs chemical gases, mists, or dusts that are in the air

**MOUTH:**
Breathing or swallowing chemicals that have spilled or settled onto food, beverages, cigarettes, beards, or hands

**SKIN:**
Absorbing chemicals through the skin, including your eyes

When working with or around chemicals be sure and wear protective gear (goggles, masks, gloves, etc.) in a well ventilated area and wash work clothes separately.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernalillo County Environmental Health Department
600 2nd St. NW, Suite 500
Albuquerque, NM
(505) 924-3650

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
1-800-887-6063

UNM Poison and Drug Information Center:
(505) 272-4261

If chemicals are inhaled or swallowed call:
Poison Emergency: (505) 272-2222
Out of Albuquerque Metro Area:
1-800-432-6866

The South Valley Clean Environment Campaign
is a community action initiative formed to build the capacity of South Valley residents and small businesses to address environmental health risks and issues in our neighborhoods.

Rio Grande Community Development Corp.
in collaboration with
Kalpulli Izkalli and the SouthWest Organizing Project

Funded in part by the South Valley Partners for Environmental Justice, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences #1R25ES10494-01A1, Bernalillo County Turning Point Partnership, Bernalillo County Environmental Health Department

AUTO SHOP WASTE
HOW TO REDUCE IT AND
WHAT TO DO WITH IT!

(505) 452-8525
e-mail: rgedc@swcp.com
1608 Isleta SW Albuquerque, NM 87105
What is Hazardous Waste?
Hazardous Waste is a solid, liquid or gaseous material which no longer is useful and is being discarded. There are four characteristic waste categories which may apply to your shop wastes.

**Flammable Wastes:** easily catches fire and tends to burn rapidly such as paint thinners and cleaning solvents.

**Corrosive Wastes:** a chemical or its vapors that can cause a material or living tissue to be destroyed such as battery acid, floor cleaners, caustic paint strippers and aluminum cleaners.

**Reactive Waste:** products containing chemicals that could have hazardous reactions such as gaseous vapors or explosions if combined with air, water, or other substances (usually not produced in auto service shops.)

**Toxic Characteristic Waste:** Concentrated chemicals that leach into groundwater at landfills, such as benzene, lead batteries and paint, and mercury batteries.

Read labels carefully to determine level of hazard and protection measures needed.

What can I do to minimize hazardous waste?
1. Switch to citrus-based (such as lemon or orange) cleaning solvents.
2. Keep hazardous and non-hazardous waste separate to minimize disposal costs.
3. Use dry materials such as saw dust, kitty litter or a commercial product for cleaning spills and floors to eliminate hazardous waste water that has to be disposed of properly.
4. Avoid solvent-based cleaners.
5. Recycle and reuse antifreeze.
7. Purchase in bulk. Antifreeze and oil purchased in bulk are less expensive, and have less packaging to be disposed.
8. Purchase reusable absorbents.
9. Use a laundry service for rags and uniforms.
10. Manage inventory to reduce stock that becomes outdated with chemicals that will need to be properly disposed.

**USED OIL**

**How to handle used oil**
Used oil is a valuable resource, but it can also pollute our groundwater and soils creating very costly cleanup liabilities.

If your business deals with used oil, you should know that:

- The US Environmental Protection Agency supports programs to increase proper recycling of used oil.
- Useful, and sometimes profitable, public service can be provided by accepting used oil for recycling from "do-it-yourselfers" who change their own oil.

What can I do with used oil?
1. Do not dump or dispose of used oil in the trash, in sewers, or on the ground.
2. Check local hauler’s qualifications to make sure the oil is taken to a reputable recycling operation.
3. If you accept used oil from customers, make sure all your employees are informed. Encourage them to talk to the customer to be sure the oil has not been mixed with any other substances.
4. Make sure your tank has a lockable cap to prevent dumping of materials into the tank when it is not supervised.
5. Provide soak-up material (like saw dust, kitty litter, or a commercial product) for minor spills. It keeps the area clean and helps prevent personal injury.
6. Make sure your collection and storage setup is leak-proof and spill-proof with lids or covers to prevent water from entering the tank or container.
7. Burn used oil in an approved waste oil heater or recycle it.

Remember:
Maintain your collection tanks regularly. Stay in compliance with local fire and safety regulations. Avoid leaks and spills.

Never mix used oil with any other material. Keep gasoline, solvents, degreasers, paints, antifreeze separate to prevent used oil from becoming a hazardous waste and increasing collection costs.

For proper disposal contact:
Hazardous Waste Collection Center
6133 Edith NE; ABQ, N.M.
For business hours call: (505) 345-1650