

Running a nail or hair salon? Know Your Ohio EPA 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 your activities. It is important to understand and comply with the regulations to avoid violations.

This fact sheet highlights some of the Ohio EPA requirements that could apply to your salon. It does not cover every requirement, but it will help you identify some regulations that may apply. You will also need to contact other agencies such as the [Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board](#), local building department, fire department, health department, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and others for information on additional requirements that may apply.

Managing Wastes

Products you may use in your business include tints, coloring, peroxide, toners, lighteners, relaxers, nail polish remover, and other chemicals. Used, outdated, or otherwise unwanted products are considered wastes. Under Ohio's regulations, any business that generates a waste needs to evaluate it to determine if it is hazardous waste. Some of the products you may use can contain acids, alkalies, or flammable solvents which may make these products hazardous wastes when you can no longer use them. Spent solvent from nail care services 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 hazardous wastes listed in Ohio EPA's regulations.

Under the regulations, hazardous waste must be disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste disposal facility. Hazardous waste cannot be disposed of in the trash. To help reduce hazardous waste generation, use 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 (DERR) for more information about the hazardous waste regulations.

Lamps

Spent 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 means lower compliance costs. For more information, visit [Ohio EPA's Lamp Guidance](#).

Wastewater

If the sinks in your salon are connected to a public sanitary sewer, you may be able to discharge your wastewater to the publicly owned treatment works (POTW). Many municipalities operate a POTW. Before you discharge wastewater to the sewer, you need to contact the POTW to ask 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 such as a septic tank and leach field. Process wastewater is any water that contacts your products, chemicals, or wastes. 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 the ground water.



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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 the 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 making changes to 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 public water 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 businesses comply with environmental regulations and permitting requirements. For more information, contact OCAPP at (800) 329-7518, or visit our website at or visit [OCAPP's website](#).

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.*