

Machine Shop Checklist #5: Spent Blast Media



Your shop's spent blast media may need to be managed as dangerous waste (DW), depending on:

- The blast media you use.
- The contaminants you remove from the metal being cleaned.

You have two disposal options

1. **Manage spent blast media as dangerous waste (DW).** Label the spent blast media container with the words "Dangerous Waste" and "Toxic." The lettering must be at least one-half inch tall or readable from 25 feet. Send it off site with a vendor (ask your Ecology contact for a vendor list). Keep the container closed unless you're actively adding waste. Keep the surrounding area clean.
2. **Manage spent blast media as solid waste (not DW).** [Designate your waste](#)¹ to show that the spent blast media is not DW. Think about the blasting media you are using. Could the media itself contain an impurity that could cause it to designate as a DW?

Check your unused blast media

Determine if your spent blast media is dangerous waste or solid waste – ask Ecology for help. Sometimes unused blast media from the product supplier is already contaminated with lead, chrome, copper, or zinc.

Example: A shop using steel media determines that the unused media contains lead — enough that it fails the lead Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test. They switch to an inexpensive import of recycled garnet, but it has sufficient chrome and copper to cause it to be DW before they use it. Finally, they switch to a virgin garnet media produced in a nearby state. After testing a representative sample of the waste they generate using the virgin garnet in their production process, they have a spent blast media that designates as solid waste. They can dispose of it as solid waste—in a dumpster.

Don't let the unused blast media be the only reason why the spent media ends up as DW. Look for a cost-effective, clean alternative.

Contact Information

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ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, email HWTRPubs@ecy.wa.gov, call (360) 407-6700, or dial 711 for relay services. Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more information.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1604028.html>