

NORTHWEST AUTOMOTIVE TRADES ASSOCIATION

1710 NE 82nd Avenue (Training Room)
7931 NE Halsey St., Ste. 212 (Administrative Office)
Portland, Oregon 97220
(503) 253-9898 * 1 800 730-7282 * fax: (503) 253-9890

Did we say “*Thank You*” to our members who participate in the “Mercury Switch-Out” program?

The Northwest Automotive Trades Association, the Oregon Environmental Council, the Department of Environmental Quality, Metro and the Port of Portland all thank you for being a part of this very important and ongoing effort to remove, replace, and dispose of mercury switches in your customers’ vehicles.

The November 2004 issue of “Northwest Automotive Journal” offers updated information about the successful “Mercury Switch-Out Program” benefiting member shops, their customers, and the environment. Started in 2001, we are proud to say NATA has 112 member shops participating in Oregon and Idaho!

Can You Help Us Count?

When the program was launched in 2001, **we set a goal of replacing 10,000 mercury switches in automobiles.** Three years later, **how have we done?** There are two ways you can count the number of mercury switches you have replaced:

- A physical count of replaced switches.
- By weight...each switch weighs approximately 1/10 of an ounce.

Tell us how many switches you have replaced and how many mercury-free replacement switches you have left by doing one of the following:

- Calling the NATA office (503) 253-9898;
- E-Mailing Barbara@aboutnata.org;
- Faxing your count to Barbara at (503) 253-9890.

And if you need more replacement switches, please call the NATA office at (503) 253-9898.

Thanks for helping us keep this important program going and growing!

Has it been about a year since you have disposed of your mercury-containing auto switches? If the answer is YES, it is time for disposal (see rules below)!

Reminder on the Management of Mercury-Containing Auto Switches:

DEQ has issued a **Mercury Auto Switch Interim Management Policy** to guide the disposal of these auto switches according to the universal waste management requirements in the interim while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing its mercury-containing equipment universal waste management rule (*full policy is available by going to the DEQ web address listed on page 3, **Switch Policy***).

DEQ will view mercury-containing auto switches managed according to universal waste management standards when they are managed under the following conditions:

- Removed switches are accumulated and managed in a manner that prevents a release of mercury into the environment.
- Accumulated switches are managed in a manner that prevents breakage of switches.
- Mercury switches are not intentionally broken prior to disposal or recycling.
- Switches are stored in a sealable, break-resistant container.
- Any released mercury is immediately cleaned up. Broken or leaking switches are stored in a sealed, airtight container.
- Final management (recycling or disposal) occurs at universal waste destination facility or permitted hazardous waste disposal facility.
- **Switches are accumulated for no longer than 1 year.**

Labeling:

- Containers used for storing of switches shall be labeled with the words "Universal Waste - Mercury Containing Switches."

Recordkeeping:

- Facilities are strongly encouraged to maintain records in the form of a shipping receipt where the hazardous waste facility that the switches were sent.

Employee Training:

- Facilities inform employees handling switches of proper handling and spill procedures.

Current list of disposal sites for used mercury switches:

(You can also call the NATA office for more information at 503 253-9898)

Northwest Automotive Trades Association NEW administrative office:

7931 NE Halsey St., Suite 212 **(Banfield Plaza Building)**
Portland OR 97213

Portland Metropolitan Area:

Metro Solid Waste Recycling Department
600 NE Grand
Portland, OR

Contact: Jim Quinn (503) 797-1662

Marion County:

A.J.'s Auto Repair
1858 13th St., S.E.
Salem, OR 97302

Contact: Bob Anderson (503) 581-7737

Lane County:

Lane County Waste Management Division
ATTN: Larry Gibbs
3100 E 17th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97403

Contact: Larry Gibbs (541) 682-3899

Willing to collect from all other areas in Oregon:

Lane County Waste Management Division
ATTN: Larry Gibbs
3100 E 17th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97403

Contact: Larry Gibbs, (541) 682-3899

For More Information About the Mercury Switch-Out Program

Replacement and Storage: Visit the DEQ's website for up-to-date information:

- Switch Factsheet
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/hw/factsheets/MercurySwitchFactsheet.pdf>
- Switch Policy <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/hw/policy/2002-PO-002.pdf>

Mercury Switch-Out Program Update, November 22, 2004

Northwest Automotive Trades Association

