



FAQ Sheet: Air Permit for Auto Body Repair and Painting Facilities

Who needs this permit?

The AQB-001 Basic Air Contaminant Discharge Permit is required for businesses that paint more than 25 automobiles in a 12-month period and are located inside the Portland Air Quality Management Area.

Am I inside the Portland Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)?

The Portland Air Quality Management Area spans much of the Portland metro area, from Forest Grove to Wilsonville, Gresham, and Vancouver. A map of the area is available online here: <http://bit.ly/PDXAQMA>

What counts as an automobile for the purposes of this permit?

An entire automobile or a section of an automobile, such as a bumper, door, or hood, that is equal to or larger than 8 inches by 8 inches.

Intent: To include repair and painting shops that are coating a whole bumper, hood, door, or more.

Example: If a customer car received a new quarter panel and at least the entire quarter panel is coated, this is one automobile. The same applies for a bumper, hood, etc. A part or piece counting as an automobile will be equal to or larger than 8 inches by 8 inches.

What doesn't count as an automobile for the purposes of this permit?

Scratch, dent, and chip repairs, and coatings applied to areas that are smaller than 8 inches by 8 inches do not count toward the 25 automobile threshold.

Intent: To exclude touch-up paint or coating of only mirrors, trim pieces, etc.

Example: Customer car received a new side mirror or door handle and the area coated was less than approximately 8 inches by 8 inches.

How will this permit help protect air quality?

Most paint used by auto body facilities contains volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. When released into the air, VOCs help form ground-level ozone, an air pollutant that can have harmful effects on people and the environment. Regulating emissions of VOCs from auto body repair facilities will help the Portland area meet national air quality standards for ozone.

Why are auto body businesses required to apply for this permit now?

DEQ has noticed that some auto body repair and painting facilities that exempted out of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and the general permit for surface coating should have been reassigned to a basic air contaminant discharge permit. These permits are required by Oregon law (OAR 340-216-8010 Table 1).

I only do dent/scratch/chip repairs. Do I need a permit?

No. However, you must submit a permit exemption form and, upon request, show records demonstrating that a permit is not required.

I use paint that contains metals. Do I need a permit?

DEQ has a General Air Contaminant Discharge Permit for facilities using paint that contains certain hazardous metals. These metals are: lead, chromium, manganese, nickel, and cadmium. This General permit also covers sources that utilize methylene chloride for paint stripping. If you have questions specific to your facility, please contact DEQ for assistance determining the appropriate permit.

Who do I call with questions?

Dan DeFehr with DEQ's Northwest Region office in Portland can be reached by telephone at 503-229-6155 or email at DeFehr.Daniel@Deq.state.or.us

What's a Land Use Compatibility Statement?

A Land Use Compatibility Statement verifies that the appropriate city or county planning department approves of your specific business operating at a given location. A Land Use Compatibility Statement is required for DEQ to issue a permit.

What fees are associated with this permit?

Fees to obtain a permit include a one-time initial permit fee of \$144 and a recurring annual fee of \$432, for a total first-time fee of \$576.