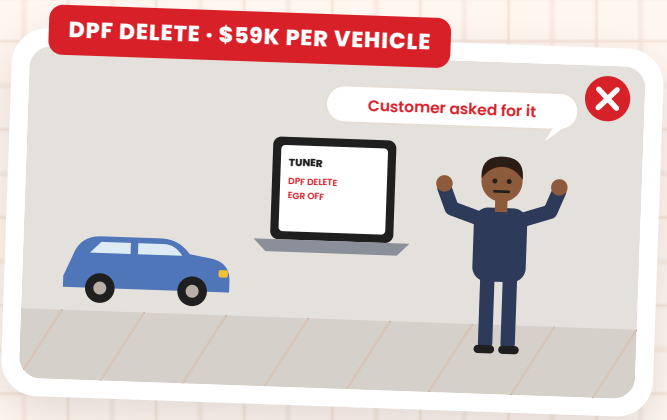
• UP TO $124,426 PER DAY Service, body shop, parts, quick lube & wash bays

EPA Environmental Compliance Guidebook for Automotive Companies

Hazardous waste, used oil, batteries, drains, refrigerant, paint and emissions: what EPA and state inspectors check at US dealerships, what good looks like, **and why environmental fines are counted per day.**





$124,426
per day, per violation under the **Clean Air Act** and RCRA court actions.

$59,114
per **tampered vehicle** for dealers and repair businesses.

$290K
paid by a **16-dealership group** after investigators searched its dumpsters.

13 standards · 39 checkpoints · RCRA · CAA · CWA · EPCRA · Right way / wrong way · Ideal fix time

2019 Parts chain · $11M → **2024** 16 dealers · $290K → **Mar 2026** Safety-Kleen · $175K → **Every day counts as a new violation.**

WHY THIS GUIDEBOOK EXISTS

Every service job leaves something regulated behind.

Oil changes, brake jobs, A/C service, batteries and paint all create waste that federal and state law control from the bay to final disposal. Environmental penalties are counted **per violation, per day**, and you stay responsible for your waste even after it leaves the site.

This guidebook covers the 13 environmental standards that matter most at a US dealership, with the regulation, the penalty, a real case and how to audit each one.

THE WASTE STREAMS IN A DEALERSHIP, AND THE RULES THAT FOLLOW THEM

Solvents, paint waste
Hazardous waste · closed, labelled, manifested
EPA-01 · 02 · 03 · 13

Used oil & filters
Used oil rules · never mixed
EPA-04 · 05 · 08

Batteries, bulbs, aerosols
Universal waste · recycled within a year
EPA-06 · 12

Wash & floor water
Separator to sewer · never storm drains
EPA-07

Refrigerant & emissions
Clean Air Act · certified, no tampering
EPA-09 · 10

Paint booth
6H NESHAP · filters, HVLP, training
EPA-11

WHO ENFORCES IT

US EPA
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal rules, inspections and penalties

State agencies
e.g. CA DTSC, TCEQ, NJDEP
Most states run the hazardous waste program, often stricter

Local
Sewer, fire, district attorneys
Sewer permits, Tier II, dumpster checks

DOJ
US Department of Justice
Brings court and criminal cases

WHO IT'S FOR

Dealer principals & GMs
Understand per-day exposure before it builds up.

Service, body & parts managers
Know where every waste stream must go, and prove it.

Auditors & environmental leads
Follow the waste from the bay to the licensed hauler.

PENALTIES ARE PER VIOLATION, PER DAY

One open drum for a month. Up to $2.8 million.

Most environmental penalties are counted **per violation, per day**. A drum that stays open and unlabelled for 30 days is 30 violation-days: up to **$93,058 each** under RCRA. Amounts are the January 2025 federal figures, still in effect.

THE PENALTY LADDER

LEVEL 1
$59,114
Per vehicle or defeat device: tampering by a dealer or repair business.

LEVEL 2
$68,445 / day
Clean Water Act: oil or waste into drains or water.

LEVEL 3
$93K–124K / day
RCRA hazardous waste and Clean Air Act violations, per violation.

LEVEL 4
Prison
Knowing illegal disposal of hazardous waste: up to 5 years; 15 for knowing endangerment.

REAL CASES FROM US AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESSES

WHO	RESULT	WHAT HAPPENED
AutoZone, California Auto parts chain · 2019	**$11M** 5M+ items	Batteries, aerosols, fluids and electronics thrown in store trash across ~600 stores.
DGDG (16 dealerships), California Dealer group · 2024	**$290,000** dumpster inspections	Brake cleaner, fluids and circuit boards found in the trash, plus unshredded customer records.
3 repair shops, IA / MO / NE EPA · 2022	**$201,837** defeat devices	Installed and sold emissions defeat devices. One shop paid $95,371.

ONE DRUM, 30 DAYS
$2.79M
30 violation-days at up to $93,058 each (RCRA).

TEN DPF DELETES
$591K
10 vehicles at up to $59,114 each for a dealer.

AND THEN
Cleanup
Your waste stays yours: **you pay to clean up** wherever it ends up.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

One page per standard. Follow the waste.

1. **Header**: code, area, owner and the maximum penalty
2. **The law**: which regulator and which regulation
3. **The cost**: fine, what else can happen and a real case
4. **Right / wrong**: illustrated pass and fail, plus how to audit

THE 13 STANDARDS

EPA-01	Hazardous Waste Generator Status ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 262	SEVERE	$93K/day + jail	30 days	5
EPA-02	Hazardous Waste Containers ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 262.16–17	SEVERE	$93K/day + jail	72 hours	6
EPA-03	Manifests & Licensed Haulers ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 262 Subp. B	SEVERE	$93K/day + jail	7 days	7
EPA-04	Used Oil Managed Right ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 279	SEVERE	$93K/day + jail	72 hours	8
EPA-05	Oil Filters & Shop Rags ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 261.4 · 279	SEVERE	$93K/day + jail	72 hours	9
EPA-06	Batteries, Bulbs & Aerosols ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 273	SEVERE	$93K/day + jail	7 days	10
EPA-07	Floor Drains & Storm Drains ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 144.88 · CWA	SEVERE	$68K/day + jail	Immediate	11
EPA-08	Oil Storage & SPCC Plan ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 112	SEVERE	$68K/day + jail	30 days	12
EPA-09	A/C Refrigerant Handled Right	40 CFR 82 Subp. B	SEVERE	$124K/day	7 days	13
EPA-10	No Emissions Tampering	CAA §203	SEVERE	$59K per vehicle	Immediate	14
EPA-11	Body Shop Paint Rules (6H)	40 CFR 63 6H	SEVERE	$124K/day	7 days	15
EPA-12	Tier II Chemical Inventory	EPCRA §312	SEVERE	$71K/day	30 days	16
EPA-13	Emergency Plan & Training ⛓ PRISON	40 CFR 262.16(b)(9)	SEVERE	$93K/day + jail	7 days	17

IDEAL FIX TIME · COUNTED FROM AUDIT SUBMISSION

Immediate	Stop now · waste is escaping or emissions tampered	2 standards
72 hours	Fix within 3 working days · containers, oil, rags	3 standards
7 days	Fix within 1 week · records, training, equipment	5 standards
30 days	Plan and close within 1 month · plans and filings	3 standards

SCORING EACH CHECKPOINT

PASS
Every criterion met at the time of audit, with evidence captured.

FAIL
Any criterion not met. If waste is reaching a drain, the ground or the trash, stop it first.

N/A
Only where "Applies when" rules it out. Record why.

Note. Most states run the hazardous waste program themselves and some (e.g. California) regulate more wastes than federal law. Check your state's rules alongside this guide.

EPA-01 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 01 OF 13

Hazardous Waste Generator Status

Area **Whole site** | Person in charge **Service Manager · Environmental lead** | Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 93,058

per day, per violation · RCRA §3008(g)

Court action: **up to $124,426 per day** · knowing illegal disposal is a crime

• SEVERE | PRISON RISK

THE LAW

RCRA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **RCRA** · 40 CFR Part 262: generator categories (VSQG / SQG / LQG), EPA ID number, SQG re-notification every 4 years

WHAT WE CHECK

The dealership knows its hazardous waste generator category from how much it produces each month, has an EPA ID number where required, and keeps the notification up to date.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Has the site worked out its generator category (very small, small or large quantity) from monthly waste amounts?
- **Q2** Does it hold an EPA ID number where required, and has a small-quantity generator re-notified in the last 4 years?
- **Q3** Are waste counts kept to show the category is right?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$93,058 per day for each violation** (RCRA §3008(g)), or **$124,426 per day** in a court case. Every day a violation continues counts again.

BEYOND THE FINE

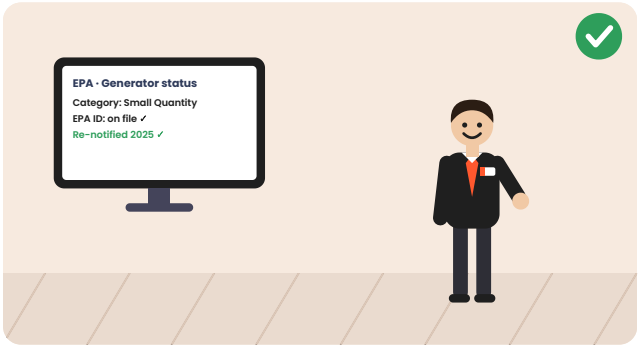
Knowingly disposing of hazardous waste without a permit is a federal crime: fines and **up to 5 years in prison** (15 years for knowing endangerment). Most states run RCRA themselves and add their own penalties.

REAL ENFORCEMENT

$175K

EPA penalty paid by **Safety-Kleen**, the parts-washer and used-oil service company, for **hazardous waste violations** in New Jersey (Mar 2026).

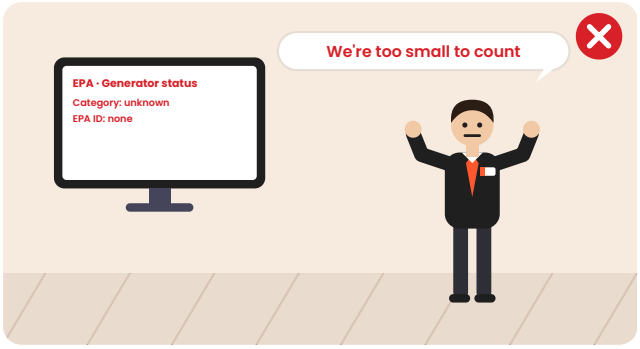
✔ RIGHT WAY



Category calculated, EPA ID and re-notification on file.

✖ WRONG WAY

$93K / DAY



"We're too small to count." No ID, no category.

PURPOSE

Every rule that follows depends on the category. Get it wrong and the whole program is wrong.

FIX IT WITHIN

30 days

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Category calculated monthly
- EPA ID on file (if SQG or LQG)
- Re-notified within 4 years
- Waste counts kept

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Ask for the monthly waste totals
2. Check the EPA ID and notification
3. Compare with manifests

Evidence: Notification + waste counts.

WORST CASE Operating in the wrong category means **every container, label and record is non-compliant**. Each can be cited at **up to $93,058 per day**.

EPA-02 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 02 OF 13

Hazardous Waste Containers

Area **Waste store · Body shop**

Person in charge **Service Manager · Body Shop Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 93,058

per day, per violation · RCRA §3008(g)

Court action: **up to $124,426 per day** · knowing illegal disposal is a crime

• SEVERE **⛓ PRISON RISK**

THE LAW

RCRA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **RCRA** · 40 CFR 262.16 / 262.17: container condition, closed containers, labels, accumulation dates, weekly inspection, time limits

WHAT WE CHECK

Hazardous waste (e.g., spent solvent, paint waste, contaminated fluids) goes in closed, compatible containers labelled "Hazardous Waste" with the hazard and start date, inspected weekly and shipped within the time limit.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Are containers closed except when adding or removing waste?
- **Q2** Is each labelled "Hazardous Waste" with its hazard and accumulation start date?
- **Q3** Are containers inspected weekly and shipped within the time limit (e.g., 180 days for small-quantity generators)?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$93,058 per day for each violation** (RCRA §3008(g)), or **$124,426 per day** in a court case. Every day a violation continues counts again.

BEYOND THE FINE

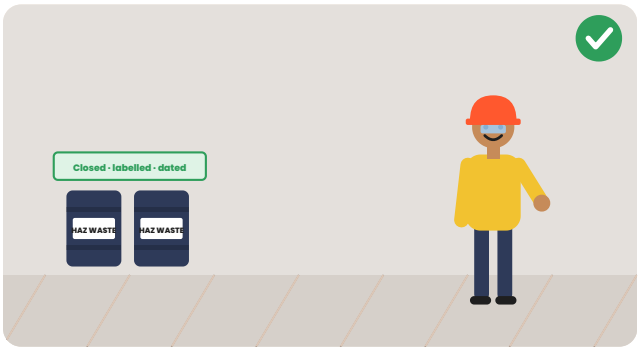
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REAL ENFORCEMENT

$175K

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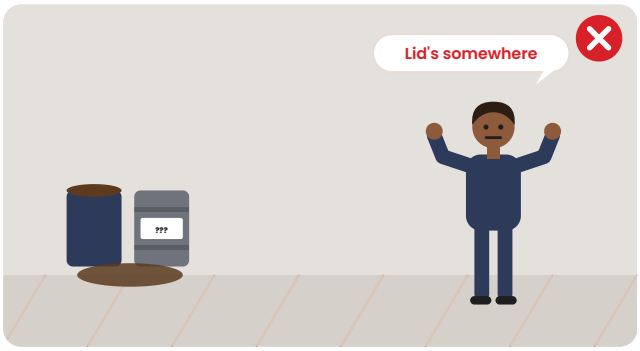
✔ RIGHT WAY



Closed, labelled, dated drums.

✖ WRONG WAY

$93K / DAY



Open drum, unknown contents, leaking.

PURPOSE

An open, unlabelled drum is the first thing an inspector sees, and the easiest violation to prove.

FIX IT WITHIN

◷ 72 hours

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Lids closed
- "Hazardous Waste" + hazard + date
- Weekly inspection log
- Shipped on time

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Walk the storage area
2. Check every label and lid
3. Check the weekly log
4. Compare dates with the limit

Evidence: Photos + weekly log.

WORST CASE Every open or unlabelled container is a violation, **every day**. Five drums for 30 days is **150 violation-days**.

EPA-03 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 03 OF 13

Manifests & Licensed Haulers

Area **Waste store · Office** | Person in charge **Service Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 93,058

per day, per violation · RCRA §3008(g)

Court action: **up to $124,426 per day** · knowing illegal disposal is a crime

SEVERE | **PRISON RISK**

THE LAW

RCRA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **RCRA** · 40 CFR 262 Subpart B: uniform hazardous waste manifest, e-Manifest, 3-year record keeping

WHAT WE CHECK

Hazardous waste leaves only with a transporter that has an EPA ID, on a signed manifest, and copies are kept for at least 3 years.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Is hazardous waste shipped only with transporters that have an EPA ID number?
- **Q2** Is every shipment on a manifest, and are copies kept for 3 years?
- **Q3** Are returned manifest copies checked and followed up if late?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$93,058 per day for each violation** (RCRA §3008(g)), or **$124,426 per day** in a court case. Every day a violation continues counts again.

BEYOND THE FINE

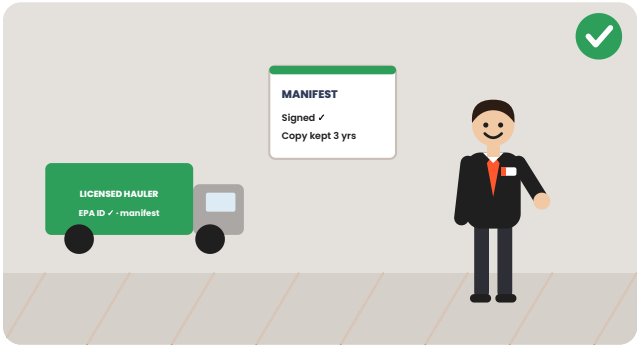
Knowingly disposing of hazardous waste without a permit is a federal crime: fines and **up to 5 years in prison** (15 years for knowing endangerment). Most states run RCRA themselves and add their own penalties.

REAL ENFORCEMENT

$290K

paid by a **16-dealership group in California** (2024) after investigators **searched its dumpsters** and found brake cleaner, fluids and circuit boards.

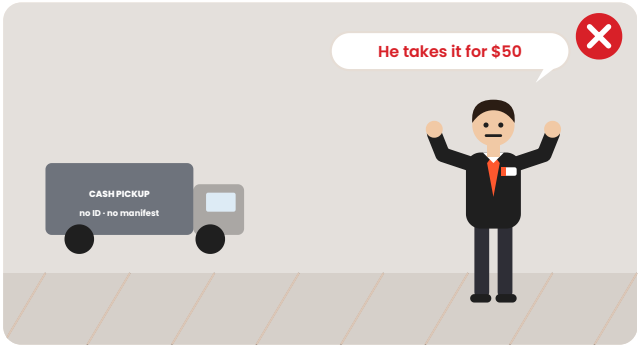
✔ RIGHT WAY



Licensed hauler, signed manifest on file.

✖ WRONG WAY

$93K / DAY



"He takes it for $50." No manifest.

PURPOSE

You stay responsible for your waste even after it leaves. If an unlicensed hauler dumps it, it's still yours.

FIX IT WITHIN

7 days

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Licensed transporters only
- Manifest for every shipment
- Copies kept 3 years
- Late returns followed up

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Pull the last 12 months of manifests
2. Check transporter IDs
3. Match to waste counts

Evidence: Manifests + transporter IDs.

WORST CASE Cash-for-pickup waste that ends up dumped comes back to you: **cleanup costs plus $93,058 per day**, and possible criminal charges.

EPA-04 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 04 OF 13

Used Oil Managed Right

Area **Service bays · Quick lube** | Person in charge **Service Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 93,058

per day, per violation · RCRA §3008(g)

Court action: **up to $124,426 per day** · knowing illegal disposal is a crime

SEVERE | **PRISON RISK**

THE LAW

RCRA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **RCRA** · 40 CFR Part 279: used oil management standards (labels, condition, spills, no mixing)

WHAT WE CHECK

Used oil is kept in good containers labelled "Used Oil", in containment, and never mixed with solvents or brake cleaner, which can turn the whole tank into hazardous waste.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Are used oil containers and tanks labelled "Used Oil" and in good condition?
- **Q2** Are leaks and spills stopped and cleaned up immediately?
- **Q3** Is used oil kept free of solvents, chlorinated brake cleaner and other hazardous waste?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$93,058 per day for each violation** (RCRA §3008(g)), or **$124,426 per day** in a court case. Every day a violation continues counts again.

BEYOND THE FINE

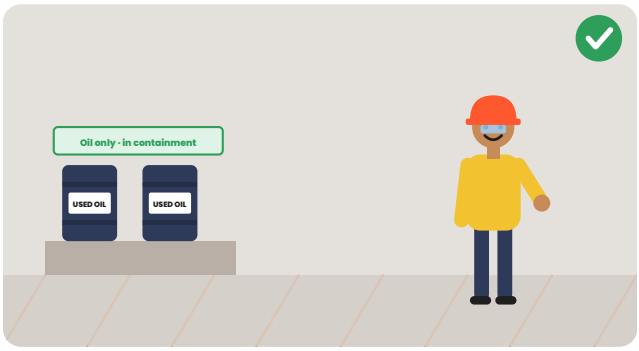
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REAL ENFORCEMENT

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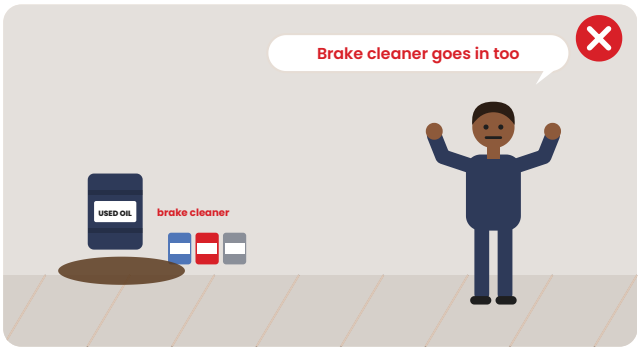
✔ RIGHT WAY



Labelled drums on containment, oil only.

✖ WRONG WAY

$93K / DAY



Brake cleaner cans in the used-oil drum, oil on the floor.

PURPOSE

Used oil is recyclable and lightly regulated, until it's mixed. Chlorinated brake cleaner can make the whole tank hazardous waste.

FIX IT WITHIN

72 hours

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- "Used Oil" labels
- Good condition, in containment
- No mixing
- Spill kit ready

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Check labels and containers
2. Ask what goes in the drum
3. Check for leaks
4. Check the recycler's receipts

Evidence: Photos + recycler receipts.

WORST CASE One can of chlorinated brake cleaner can turn a **1,000-gallon tank into hazardous waste**: disposal costs jump, and every day is a violation.

EPA-05 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 05 OF 13

Oil Filters & Shop Rags

Area **Service bays · Detail** | Person in charge **Service Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 93,058

per day, per violation · RCRA §3008(g)

Court action: **up to $124,426 per day** · knowing illegal disposal is a crime

● SEVERE | ⛓ PRISON RISK

THE LAW

RCRA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **RCRA** · 40 CFR 261.4(b)(13) used oil filters (hot-drained) · 261.4(a)(26)/(b)(18) solvent-contaminated wipes

WHAT WE CHECK

Used oil filters are hot-drained before recycling. Solvent-soaked wipes and rags are kept in closed, labelled containers and sent to a laundry or proper disposal, not the trash.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- Q1 Are used oil filters hot-drained (typically 12 hours) and recycled?
- Q2 Are solvent-contaminated rags kept in closed, labelled containers?
- Q3 Are rags and filters kept out of general trash?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$93,058 per day for each violation** (RCRA §3008(g)), or **$124,426 per day** in a court case. Every day a violation continues counts again.

BEYOND THE FINE

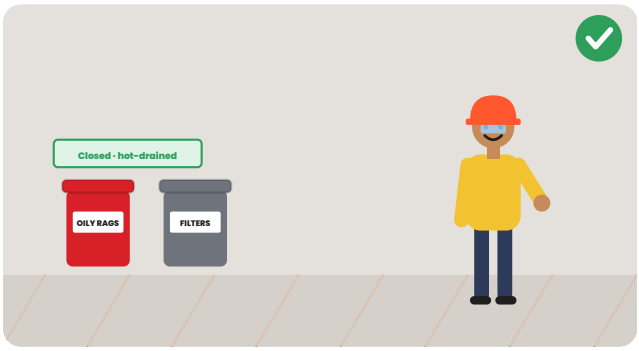
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REAL ENFORCEMENT

$290K

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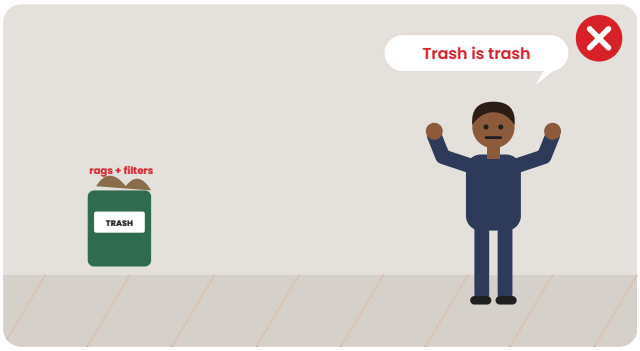
✔ RIGHT WAY



Closed rag bin and a draining filter bin.

✖ WRONG WAY

$93K / DAY



Rags and filters in the general trash.

PURPOSE

Investigators search dumpsters. That's exactly how a 16-dealership group was caught.

FIX IT WITHIN

◷ 72 hours

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Filters hot-drained
- Rags in closed labelled bins
- Laundry or disposal records
- Nothing oily in the trash

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Look in the dumpster
2. Check filter crusher/drain
3. Check rag bins and laundry receipts

Evidence: Photos + laundry / recycling receipts.

WORST CASE Oily rags and filters in the dumpster cost a California dealer group **$290,000**. It was found by looking in the trash.

EPA-06 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 06 OF 13

Batteries, Bulbs & Aerosols

Area **Parts · Service** | Person in charge **Parts Manager** | Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 93,058

per day, per violation · RCRA §3008(g)

Court action: **up to $124,426 per day** · knowing illegal disposal is a crime

• SEVERE | ⛓ PRISON RISK

THE LAW

RCRA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **RCRA** · 40 CFR Part 273 universal waste (batteries, lamps, aerosol cans) · Part 266 Subpart G (lead-acid batteries)

WHAT WE CHECK

Lead-acid batteries, fluorescent lamps and aerosol cans are managed as universal waste: labelled, dated, stored safely and shipped for recycling within a year.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- Q1 Are universal wastes (batteries, lamps, aerosols) labelled and dated?
- Q2 Are they stored to prevent leaks or breakage and sent for recycling within one year?
- Q3 Are batteries and aerosols kept out of the dumpster?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$93,058 per day for each violation** (RCRA §3008(g)), or **$124,426 per day** in a court case. Every day a violation continues counts again.

BEYOND THE FINE

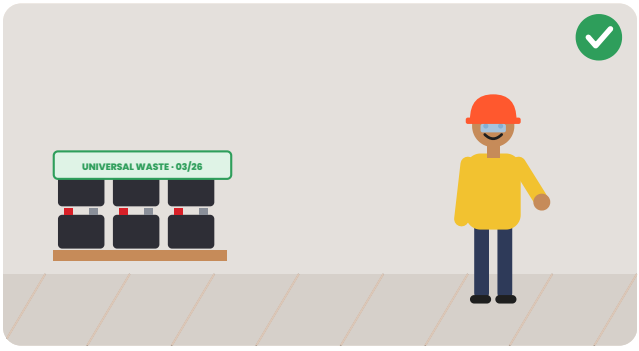
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BIG NUMBERS

$11M

settlement by an **auto parts chain** in California (2019): over **5 million hazardous items** (batteries, aerosols, fluids) thrown in store trash.

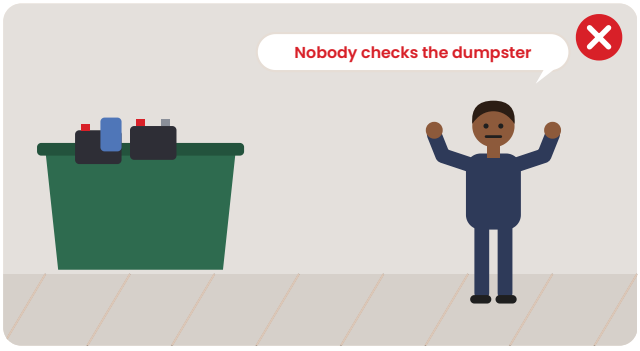
✔ RIGHT WAY



Batteries on a labelled pallet, dated.

✖ WRONG WAY

$93K / DAY



Batteries and aerosols thrown in the dumpster.

PURPOSE

Lead-acid batteries are one of the most recycled products in the US. Throwing them away is easy to prove and hard to explain.

FIX IT WITHIN

◷ 7 days

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Labelled "Universal Waste" with type
- Accumulation date
- Stored safely
- Shipped within 1 year

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Check the battery area
2. Check the dumpster
3. Check recycling receipts

Evidence: Photos + recycling receipts.

WORST CASE An auto parts chain paid **$11 million** for batteries, aerosols and fluids in store trash. Each item was a violation.

EPA-07 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 07 OF 13

Floor Drains & Storm Drains

Area **Service bays · Wash bay · Lot**

Person in charge **Facility Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 68,445

per day, per violation · Clean Water Act §309(d)

Oil discharge (§311): up to **$236,451** at the top tier

● SEVERE ⛓ PRISON RISK

THE LAW

CWA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **Clean Water Act** §301 / §309 · **Safe Drinking Water Act** UIC: motor vehicle waste disposal wells banned (40 CFR 144.88)

WHAT WE CHECK

Shop floor drains go to an oil-water separator and the sanitary sewer (with permission), never to a storm drain, septic system or dry well. Nothing is hosed outside into storm drains.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- Q1 Is it known where every shop floor drain discharges?
- Q2 Do shop drains go only to a maintained oil-water separator and the sanitary sewer, never to a storm drain, septic or dry well?
- Q3 Are wash water and spills kept away from outdoor storm drains?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$68,445 per day for each violation** of the Clean Water Act. Oil discharges have their own penalty tiers of up to **$236,451**.

BEYOND THE FINE

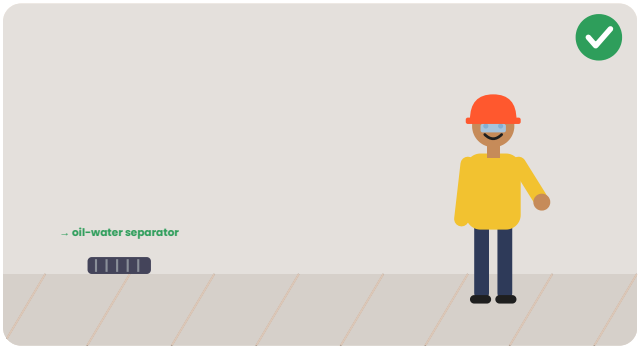
Knowing or negligent discharges can be prosecuted. Local sewer authorities and state agencies can also fine, and cleanup costs are yours.

REAL ENFORCEMENT

$290K

paid by a **16-dealership group in California** (2024) after investigators **searched its dumpsters** and found brake cleaner, fluids and circuit boards.

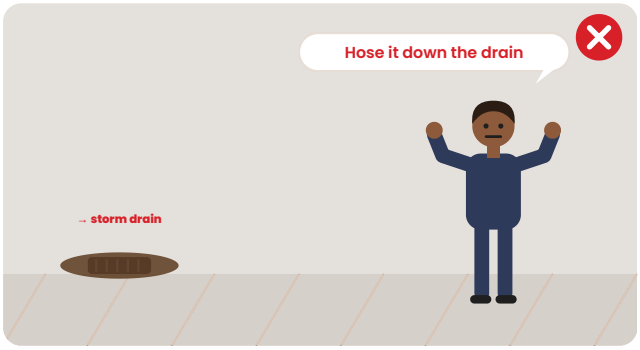
✔ RIGHT WAY



Floor drain to a separator, mapped and maintained.

✖ WRONG WAY

$68K / DAY



Oil hosed straight into the storm drain.

PURPOSE

Storm drains go straight to rivers. A floor drain into a dry well is a banned injection well.

FIX IT WITHIN

◷ Immediate

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Drain map on file
- Separator maintained
- No storm, septic or dry-well connection
- Outdoor drains protected

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Ask for the drain map
2. Check the separator service log
3. Walk outdoor drains
4. Watch how bays are washed

Evidence: Drain map + service log + photos.

WORST CASE Oil into a storm drain is a Clean Water Act violation: **up to $68,445 per day**, plus cleanup. Closing a banned drain can cost more.

EPA-08 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 08 OF 13

Oil Storage & SPCC Plan

Area **Lube room · Tank farm** | Person in charge **Facility Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 68,445

per day, per violation · Clean Water Act §309(d)

Oil discharge (§311): up to **$236,451** at the top tier

SEVERE | PRISON RISK

THE LAW

CWA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **Clean Water Act** §311 · 40 CFR Part 112: Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule

WHAT WE CHECK

If the site stores more than 1,320 gallons of oil above ground (counting every container of 55 gallons or more: new oil, used oil, hydraulic fluid), it has an SPCC plan and secondary containment.

Applies when: Sites with more than 1,320 gallons of aboveground oil storage in containers of 55 gallons or more.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Has the site added up its aboveground oil storage (containers of 55 gallons or more)?
- **Q2** If over 1,320 gallons, is there a current SPCC plan, reviewed every 5 years?
- **Q3** Do bulk tanks and drums have secondary containment, and are staff trained on spills?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$68,445 per day for each violation** of the Clean Water Act. Oil discharges have their own penalty tiers of up to **$236,451**.

BEYOND THE FINE

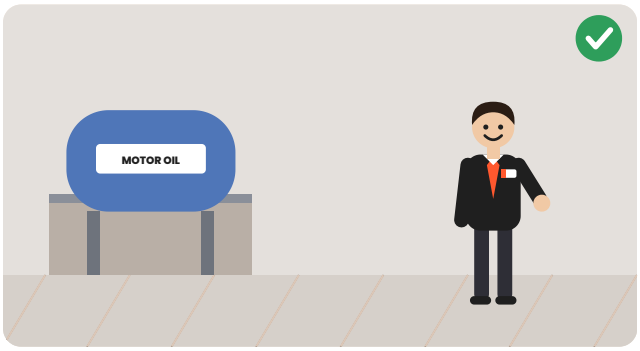
Knowing or negligent discharges can be prosecuted. Local sewer authorities and state agencies can also fine, and cleanup costs are yours.

REAL ENFORCEMENT

$175K

EPA penalty paid by **Safety-Kleen**, the parts-washer and used-oil service company, for **hazardous waste violations** in New Jersey (Mar 2026).

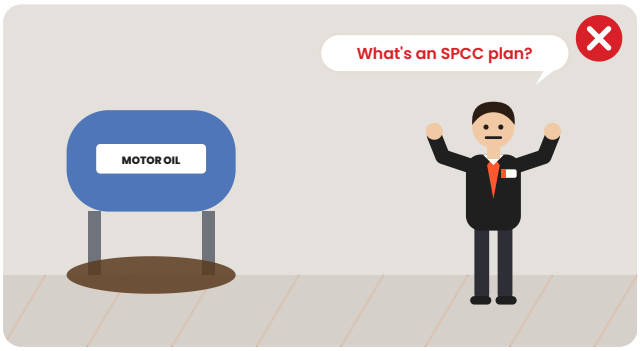
✔ RIGHT WAY



Oil tank inside a containment berm.

✖ WRONG WAY

$68K / DAY



No containment and no plan. Oil on the ground.

PURPOSE

A dealership with bulk engine oil, ATF and used oil tanks crosses 1,320 gallons quickly.

FIX IT WITHIN

30 days

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Storage capacity calculated
- SPCC plan if over 1,320 gal
- Secondary containment
- Annual spill training

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Count tanks and drums
2. Request the SPCC plan
3. Inspect containment
4. Check training records

Evidence: Capacity sheet + SPCC plan + photos.

WORST CASE No plan when one is required is a violation **every day**. If oil reaches water: **up to $236,451** in oil-discharge penalties.

EPA-09 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 09 OF 13

A/C Refrigerant Handled Right

Area **Service bays** | Person in charge **Service Manager** | Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 124,426

per day, per violation · Clean Air Act §113(b)

EPA administrative orders: **up to $472,901** per case

• SEVERE

THE LAW

CAA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **Clean Air Act §609** · 40 CFR Part 82 Subpart B: motor vehicle air conditioning (certified technicians, approved equipment, no venting)

WHAT WE CHECK

Only Section 609-certified technicians service vehicle A/C, using EPA-approved recovery equipment registered with EPA. Refrigerant is never vented.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Is every technician who services vehicle A/C Section 609-certified, with certificates on file?
- **Q2** Is approved recovery/recycling equipment used, and has it been certified to EPA?
- **Q3** Is refrigerant always recovered, never vented?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$124,426 per day for each violation** of the Clean Air Act (§113(b)), or up to $472,901 in an EPA administrative order.

BEYOND THE FINE

State air agencies (e.g. CARB in California) enforce on top of EPA. Knowing violations can be prosecuted.

REAL ENFORCEMENT

21 devices

sold or installed by one Missouri dealer-repairer, **Midwest Motors**, fined by EPA for defeat-device violations (2022).

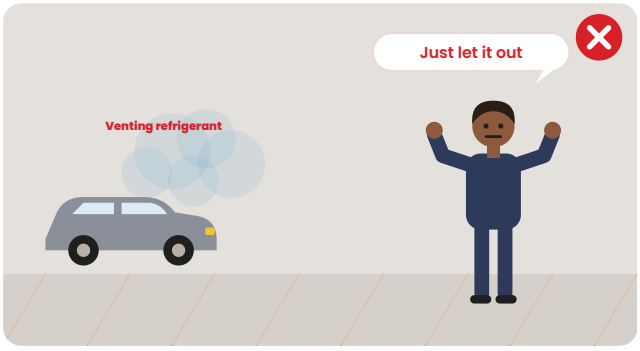
✔ RIGHT WAY



Certified technician using approved recovery equipment.

✖ WRONG WAY

$124K / DAY



Refrigerant vented into the air.

PURPOSE

Venting is illegal and easy to spot. Certification is a simple paperwork check.

FIX IT WITHIN

◷ 7 days

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- 609 certificates for all A/C techs
- Approved equipment
- Equipment certified to EPA
- No venting

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. List A/C technicians
2. Match to certificates
3. Check equipment labels
4. Watch a recovery

Evidence: Certificates + equipment certification.

WORST CASE Venting refrigerant is a Clean Air Act violation: **up to $124,426 per day**, per violation.

EPA-10 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 10 OF 13

No Emissions Tampering

Area **Service · Parts · Performance**

Person in charge **Service Manager · Parts Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 59,114

per device or vehicle · dealers & repair businesses

Individuals: $5,911 each · **state penalties on top**

SEVERE

THE LAW

CAA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **Clean Air Act §203(a)(3)**: removing or disabling emissions controls, and selling or installing defeat devices

WHAT WE CHECK

No one at the dealership removes, disables or bypasses emissions equipment (catalytic converters, DPFs, EGR, software) or sells or installs parts that do, even if the customer asks.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Is there a written policy banning emissions tampering and defeat devices?
- **Q2** Are tuning tools, parts sales and repair orders checked for "delete" kits or tunes?
- **Q3** Are technicians trained that customer requests don't make tampering legal?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Dealers and repair businesses: up to **$59,114 for each vehicle tampered with or each defeat device sold or installed**. Individuals: up to $5,911.

BEYOND THE FINE

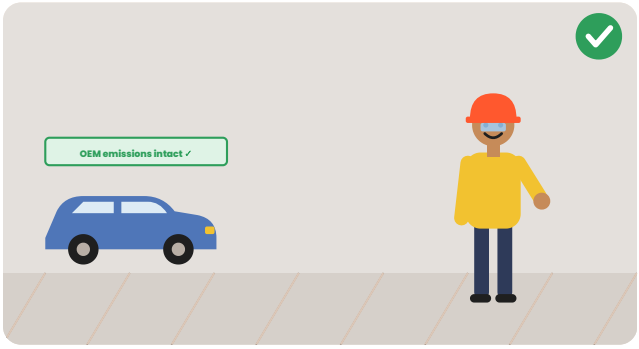
In January 2026 the Justice Department said it will no longer bring **criminal** tampering cases. **Civil penalties remain**, and states such as California enforce their own.

REAL ENFORCEMENT

$201,837

in EPA fines on **three repair shops** for installing emissions defeat devices (2022). One shop alone paid **$95,371**.

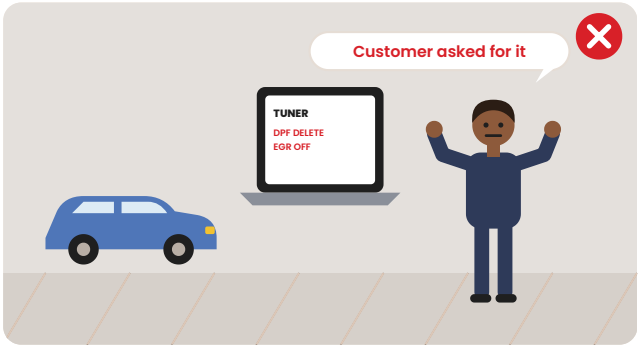
✔ RIGHT WAY



Emissions equipment intact, policy signed.

✖ WRONG WAY

$59K EACH



DPF-delete tune loaded because the customer asked.

PURPOSE

Dealers and repair businesses face the highest tampering penalty: 10 times what an individual pays.

FIX IT WITHIN

Immediate

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Written no-tampering policy
- Parts and tools checked
- Repair orders reviewed
- Staff trained

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Search parts sales for delete kits
2. Check tuning laptops
3. Review repair orders
4. Interview a technician

Evidence: Policy + parts search + training log.

WORST CASE Dealers pay up to **$59,114 per tampered vehicle or device**. Ten deletes: **$591,140**. Criminal cases are paused, but civil fines and state penalties are not.

EPA-11 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 11 OF 13

Body Shop Paint Rules (6H)

Area **Body & paint shop** | Person in charge **Body Shop Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 124,426

per day, per violation · Clean Air Act §113(b)

EPA administrative orders: **up to $472,901** per case

• SEVERE

THE LAW

CAA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **Clean Air Act** · 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart HHHHHH ("6H"): paint stripping and miscellaneous surface coating

WHAT WE CHECK

Spray painting happens in a booth with filters that capture at least 98% of overspray, using HVLP or equivalent guns and enclosed gun cleaning. Painters are trained and certified every 5 years, and EPA has been notified.

Applies when: Body shops that spray-apply coatings containing target HAPs (chromium, lead, manganese, nickel, cadmium).

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Is all spray painting done in a booth with filters rated at least 98% efficient?
- **Q2** Are HVLP or equivalent spray guns and enclosed gun cleaning used?
- **Q3** Are painters trained and certified (renewed every 5 years), and were the required notifications sent?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$124,426 per day for each violation** of the Clean Air Act (§113(b)), or up to $472,901 in an EPA administrative order.

BEYOND THE FINE

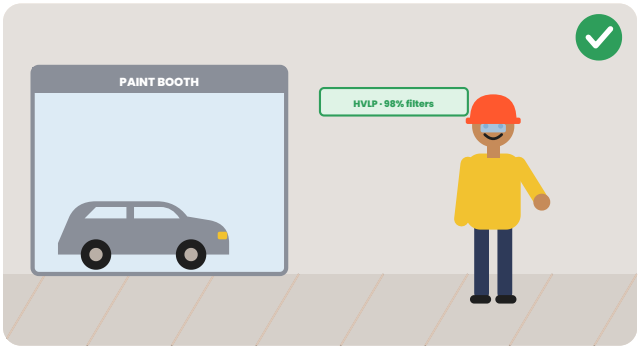
State air agencies (e.g. CARB in California) enforce on top of EPA. Knowing violations can be prosecuted.

BIG NUMBERS

$3.1M

criminal and civil penalties for a diesel tuner that sold **emissions "delete" software** (Dec 2024). Criminal cases have since been dropped, but **civil fines remain**.

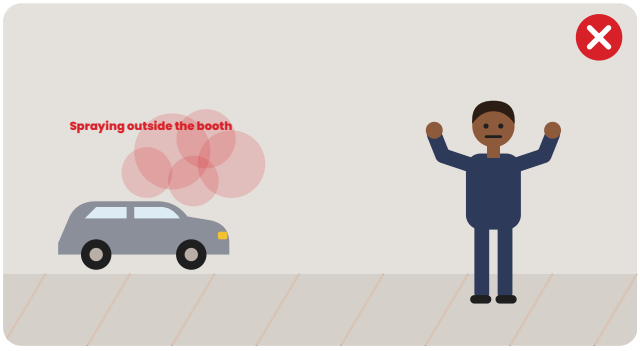
✔ RIGHT WAY



Booth, HVLP gun, 98% filters.

✖ WRONG WAY

$124K / DAY



Spraying in the open workshop.

PURPOSE

Most US collision centres fall under 6H. Training certificates and filter records are what the inspector asks for.

FIX IT WITHIN

◷ 7 days

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Booth with 98% filters
- HVLP or equivalent guns
- Enclosed gun washer
- Painter certificates current
- Notifications filed

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Inspect the booth and filters
2. Check spray guns
3. Check painter certificates
4. Request the notification

Evidence: Certificates + filter records + notification.

WORST CASE Painting outside the booth or with untrained painters is a Clean Air Act violation: **up to $124,426 per day**.

EPA-12 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 12 OF 13

Tier II Chemical Inventory

Area **Parts · Lube room**

Person in charge **Parts Manager · Facility Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 71,545

per day, per violation · EPCRA §325

Every day the report is missing counts again

• SEVERE

THE LAW

EPCRA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **EPCRA §311–312** · 40 CFR Part 370: Tier II hazardous chemical inventory, due every 1 March

WHAT WE CHECK

If the site holds more than the reporting threshold of hazardous chemicals, such as sulfuric acid in lead-acid batteries or large quantities of oil, it files a Tier II report with the state, local planning committee and fire department by 1 March.

Applies when: Sites storing hazardous chemicals above EPCRA Tier II thresholds (often through battery inventory).

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Has the site calculated its chemical inventory against Tier II thresholds (e.g., sulfuric acid in batteries, 500 lb)?
- **Q2** If over threshold, was the Tier II report filed by 1 March?
- **Q3** Were Safety Data Sheets or a list sent to the local authorities?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$71,545 per day for each violation** of EPCRA §312.

BEYOND THE FINE

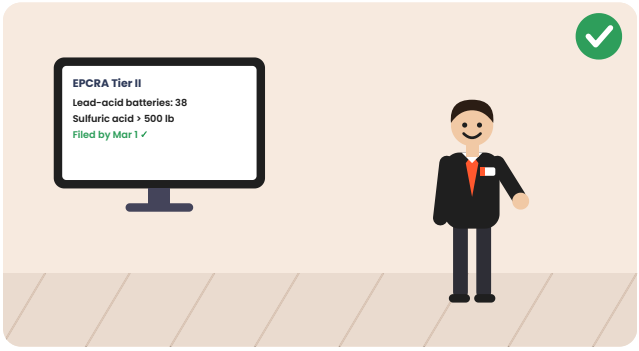
Fire departments can also cite under local fire codes. States often add their own late fees.

REAL ENFORCEMENT

$175K

EPA penalty paid by **Safety-Kleen**, the parts-washer and used-oil service company, for **hazardous waste violations** in New Jersey (Mar 2026).

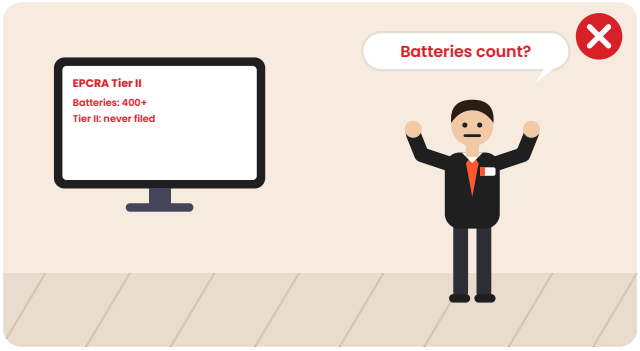
✔ RIGHT WAY



Tier II filed on time.

✖ WRONG WAY

$71K / DAY



400+ batteries in stock, and Tier II never filed.

PURPOSE

Firefighters need to know what's inside before they go in. Battery stock is the item dealers miss.

FIX IT WITHIN

30 days

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- Inventory calculated
- Tier II filed by 1 March
- Copies to state, LEPC and fire department

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Count battery stock and oil volumes
2. Check the filing receipt
3. Check the fire department copy

Evidence: Filing receipt + calculation.

WORST CASE A missing Tier II is **up to $71,545 per day**. A year late is **365 days** of potential violations.

EPA-13 EPA · ENVIRONMENTAL · STANDARD 13 OF 13

Emergency Plan & Training

Area **Waste store · Service** | Person in charge **Service Manager**

Regulator **EPA · State agency**

MAXIMUM PENALTY

USD 93,058

per day, per violation · RCRA §3008(g)

Court action: **up to $124,426 per day** · knowing illegal disposal is a crime

• SEVERE **⛓ PRISON RISK**

THE LAW

RCRA

EPA civil penalty amounts adjusted **8 Jan 2025** (40 CFR Part 19), still in effect · **RCRA** · 40 CFR 262.16(b)(9) / 262.17: emergency coordinator, posted emergency information, staff training

WHAT WE CHECK

An emergency coordinator is named, emergency information (coordinator, fire department, spill kit and extinguisher locations) is posted by the phone, and staff handling waste are trained.

CHECKPOINTS IN THE AUDIT

- **Q1** Is there a named emergency coordinator available at all times?
- **Q2** Is emergency information posted next to the phone near waste areas?
- **Q3** Are employees who handle hazardous waste trained on handling and emergency procedures?

WHAT NON-COMPLIANCE COSTS YOU

THE FINE

Up to **$93,058 per day for each violation** (RCRA §3008(g)), or **$124,426 per day** in a court case. Every day a violation continues counts again.

BEYOND THE FINE

Knowingly disposing of hazardous waste without a permit is a federal crime: fines and **up to 5 years in prison** (15 years for knowing endangerment). Most states run RCRA themselves and add their own penalties.

REAL ENFORCEMENT

$175K

EPA penalty paid by **Safety-Kleen**, the parts-washer and used-oil service company, for **hazardous waste violations** in New Jersey (Mar 2026).

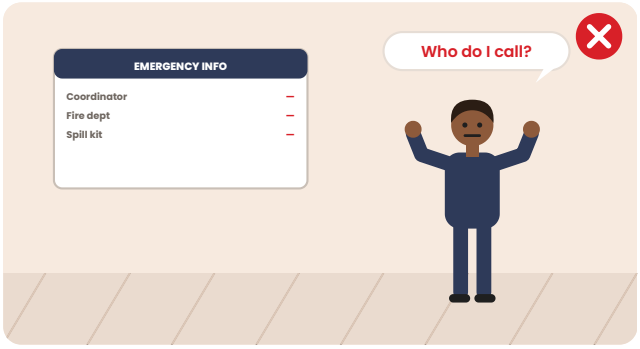
✔ RIGHT WAY



Emergency information posted by the phone.

✖ WRONG WAY

$93K / DAY



Nothing posted: "Who do I call?"

PURPOSE

A spill or fire in the waste area needs a fast, trained response. The posting is the first thing inspectors check.

FIX IT WITHIN

◷ 7 days

AUDIT CRITERIA · PASS WHEN

- ✓ Coordinator named
- ✓ Info posted by the phone
- ✓ Staff trained
- ✓ Spill kit stocked

IDEAL WAY OF AUDITING

1. Find the posting
2. Ask who the coordinator is
3. Check training records
4. Check the spill kit

Evidence: Photo of posting + training records.

WORST CASE Missing postings and training are quick citations, each **up to $93,058 per day**.

CLOSE THE GAPS BEFORE THE WASTE LEAVES THE SITE

Your 30-day environmental action plan.

Today

- [ ] **EPA-07** Floor Drains & Storm Drains — Immediate
- [ ] **EPA-10** No Emissions Tampering — Immediate

This week

- [ ] **EPA-02** Hazardous Waste Containers — 72 hours
- [ ] **EPA-04** Used Oil Managed Right — 72 hours
- [ ] **EPA-05** Oil Filters & Shop Rags — 72 hours
- [ ] **EPA-03** Manifests & Licensed Haulers — 7 days
- [ ] **EPA-06** Batteries, Bulbs & Aerosols — 7 days
- [ ] **EPA-09** A/C Refrigerant Handled Right — 7 days
- [ ] **EPA-11** Body Shop Paint Rules (6H) — 7 days
- [ ] **EPA-13** Emergency Plan & Training — 7 days

This month

- [ ] **EPA-01** Hazardous Waste Generator Status — 30 days
- [ ] **EPA-08** Oil Storage & SPCC Plan — 30 days
- [ ] **EPA-12** Tier II Chemical Inventory — 30 days

?/13 Count your passes. Each fail can be counted **every day** it continues: up to **$124,426 per day**, and prison for knowing illegal disposal.

SOURCES

- EPA: Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment, Federal Register (8 Jan 2025) · 40 CFR Part 19 · federalregister.gov · ecfr.gov
- California AG: AutoZone $11M hazardous waste settlement (18 Jun 2019) · oag.ca.gov
- Santa Clara County DA: DGDG car dealer ordered to pay almost $300,000 (Jul 2024) · da.santaclaracounty.gov
- EPA: fines auto repair shops in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska for defeat devices (Aug 2022); Midwest Motors (Oct 2022) · epa.gov
- National Agricultural Law Center: DOJ & EPA stance on diesel defeat devices (Jan 2026) · nationalaglawcenter.org
- CollisionWeek: Safety-Kleen pays $175,000 to settle EPA hazardous waste violations (Mar 2026) · collisionweek.com
- 40 CFR Parts 82, 112, 144, 261–262, 266, 273, 279, 370 and Part 63 Subpart HHHHHH · ecfr.gov

Disclaimer. For compliance-audit guidance only; not legal advice. Penalties are federal statutory maximums; actual penalties depend on severity and history. States may apply stricter rules and their own penalties.

AUDIT SIGN-OFF

DEALERSHIP / SITE _____ AUDITOR _____ DATE _____ SCORE __ / 13

SERVICE MANAGER SIGNATURE _____ ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD SIGNATURE _____