

## Guidelines for Abrasive Blasting

Airborne particulate matter emissions resulting from abrasive blasting must be controlled to meet air quality regulations enforced in Spokane County by the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air). Following is a summary of requirements for three categories of abrasive blasting operations, (1) **Existing** Stationary Sources (not portable), (2) **Portable**, Temporary Sources, and (3) **New** Stationary Sources.

### 1. Abrasive Blasting - Existing Permanent (not portable) Sources

Applicable Spokane Clean Air regulations include:  
Regulation I, Sections 4.01, 4.02 (registration)  
Regulation I, Section 6.02 (visible emissions)  
Regulation I, Section 6.04 (odors and nuisances)  
Regulation I, Section 6.05 (airborne particulate)  
In addition, Chapter 173-400 WAC.

#### Summary of Requirements

All existing abrasive blasting operations must register with Spokane Clean Air and are subject to registration fees and compliance inspections.

Please refer to Spokane Clean Air Info Sheet: *Registering Your Business*, available online at [www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org) or call 477-4727.

In addition, each source must use “reasonably available control technology” (RACT) to control emissions in order to comply with Regulation I and Chapter 173-400 WAC. Examples of RACT include the use of enclosures, wet blasting, collection systems, curtailment of blasting during windy weather conditions, choice of blasting media, etc.

### 2. Abrasive Blasting - Portable, Temporary Sources

Applicable Spokane Clean Air regulations include:  
Regulation I, Section 6.02 (visible emissions)  
Regulation I, Section 6.04 (odors and nuisances)  
Regulation I, Section 6.05 (airborne particulate)  
In addition, Chapter 173-460 WAC (air toxics)

#### Summary of Requirements

Abrasive blasting must be performed inside a booth or hangar designed to capture the blast grit or overspray whenever possible. Outdoor blasting of structures or items too large to reasonably be handled indoors must use control measures such as curtailment during windy periods and enclosure of the area being blasted with tarps. In addition, the residual blasting media must be cleaned from the site to avoid windblown emissions from this residue.

Outdoor blasting must be performed with either steel shot or an abrasive containing less than one percent (by mass) which would pass through a United States Standard Number 200 sieve. For a system which recycles or reuses an abrasive, the sample tested shall include all material returning to the nozzle.

All abrasive blasting with silica must be performed inside an approved blasting booth or cabinet which has emissions control equipment. Uncontrolled outdoor blasting using silica sand is not permitted.

### 3. Abrasive Blasting - New Stationary Sources

Applicable Spokane Clean Air Regulations:  
Regulation I, Article IV (registration)  
Regulation I, Article V (notice of construction and application for approval)  
Regulation I, Section 6.02 (visible emissions)  
Regulation I, Section 6.04 (odors and nuisances)  
Regulation I, Section 6.05 (airborne particulate)  
In addition, Chapter 173-400 WAC and Chapter 173-460 WAC (Air Toxics)

#### Summary of Requirements:

All new permanent abrasive blasting operations must obtain an approved Notice of Construction (NOC) prior to the construction or installation of the blasting equipment. The NOC process may require up to three months, so it is important to turn in the application early to avoid delays. The source must also register with Spokane Clean Air and is subject to registration fees and compliance inspections. Please refer to *Registering Your Business* Info Sheet online or by calling 477-4727..

Abrasive blasting must be performed inside a booth or hangar designed to capture the blast grit or overspray.

According to state regulations, all new and modified air pollution sources must use Best Available Control Technology (BACT). For an abrasive blasting operation, this typically involves the use of a dust collector to control emissions.

Outdoor blasting of structures or items too large to be reasonably handled indoors must use control measures such as curtailment during windy periods and enclosure of the area being blasted with tarps.

Outdoor blasting must be performed with either steel shot or an abrasive containing less than one percent (by mass) which would pass through a United States Standard Number 200 sieve. For a system which recycles or reuses an abrasive, the sample tested shall include all material returning to the nozzle.

All abrasive blasting with silica sand must be performed inside an approved blasting booth or cabinet which has emissions control equipment.

#### Failure To Comply

Failure to comply with air pollution regulations and emission standards can subject the violator to civil penalties up to \$10,000 per day per violation. Criminal sanctions under Chapter 70.94 RCW may be imposed.

#### Waste Handling Procedures

Abrasive blast wastes may be designated as hazardous due to heavy metal content. These wastes should be tested following the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure. For more information on proper waste handling, contact the Department of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office at 329-3400.

#### More Information

For more information about abrasive blasting or any other air quality requirements, please contact Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, 477-4727 or [www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org).



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