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# POLLUTION PREVENTION VIEW

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A Newsletter from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

WINTER 2003-04



DMV Inspector Robert Bellante goes over the environmental compliance checklist with Peter Aniello, owner of a repair facility in West Hartford.

## What You “Auto” Know about the DEP and the DMV

**If you are like most people, your only contact with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has been to renew a license (oh, those pictures!) and to get your vehicle registered. You probably don’t immediately associate the DMV with the environment until you get your car tested for emissions. However, the DMV and the DEP have other common interests.**

The DMV licenses approximately 5200 facilities which include auto body and repair shops, used and new vehicle dealerships, auto dismantlers and some vocational-technical schools. **To insure that these businesses are run properly, they inspect about 550 facilities (new or change of ownership) and investigate over 1200 complaints per year.** The DEP also has interest in these facilities since the nature of their business involves the use of many hazardous substances that can impact the environment if not properly managed. For instance, a DEP Waste inspector may visit a auto repair shop to ensure waste oil containers are labeled properly, batteries are being recycled and used tires are not in an enormous pile creating habitat for mosquitoes.

The DMV inspectors were already distributing DEP’s Pit Stops Fact Sheets and fielding questions from business owners about environmental requirements (see page 4 for more information on Pit Stops). So it made sense to have them be additional “eyes and ears” for the DEP when making visits to these facilities. Lee Telke, Chief of DMV’s Dealers and Repairers Licensing and Enforcement Division, enthusiastically agreed: “Part of DMV’s mission is to insure that these businesses are good neighbors. Looking at the environmental as well as the motor vehicle requirements helps us to do that.”

So as part of an EPA grant, the DEP Office of Pollution Prevention staff, with assistance from the Waste, Water and Air Bureaus, developed a twenty-question compliance checklist. In the fall of 2002, DEP staff trained more than twenty DMV inspectors on how to recognize when a facility was not in compliance with environmental regulations.

The checklist covers topics such as hazardous waste management, recycling, wastewater discharge, storm water management, underground storage tanks and vehicle painting. The DMV inspector can use the checklist not only to determine if the facility is in compliance, but can use it as a tool to educate facility owners and employees about what they are required to do by law. Any violations or areas of concern can be noted on the form. Completed forms are then sent to the DEP Office of Pollution Prevention for review and then if any serious violations are noted, a referral is made to the appropriate DEP Program area for follow-up. The information, which is also entered into a database, will be used to target future education and outreach activities.

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# Let it Snow!



**The weather forecast is for a mixture of snow and freezing rain and you have company coming over to visit. What should you spread on your walkway to make sure that your guests don't slip and fall as they come to your door?**

There are many brands of chemical deicers on the market that all promise to get rid of that icy mess. But it's often confusing choosing which one to purchase – and then to figure out how to use it without harming your lawn and shrubs or damaging your walkway. There are advantages and disadvantages to all deicing products.

Most deicers usually contain one or more of the following chemicals – sodium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium magnesium acetate, and urea. Plants, especially evergreens, can be injured by either direct or indirect contact with deicers containing chloride salts when used in excess. The salts from these deicers can also be corrosive to unprotected metal and can damage concrete. Deicers can cause skin irritation to people and pets. If slush is not removed before it refreezes, it can be tracked into the house, leaving unsightly white residue that may harm the floor or carpet.

Deicers containing acetates or urea can lead to depleted oxygen levels in ponds downstream, negatively impacting fish and other aquatic life. Some of these deicers are less

effective at temperatures below 20 degrees F than those containing chloride salts. The size and shape of any deicing particles affects their ability to penetrate ice to the pavement surface where the particles are most effective at keeping ice from adhering. Larger pellets are more efficient than smaller ones. (See the table below for a comparison of the different types of deicers.) ■

## To reduce the environmental impact and damage to your home, follow these tips:

- ❄ Read the label instructions for any deicer to make sure that you are applying it correctly.
- ❄ Remove as much ice and snow as you can before applying a deicer. Use the deicing chemicals sparingly.
- ❄ Pile treated snow or ice away from plants to avoid salt damage.
- ❄ Remove slush before it refreezes, so that it is not tracked into the house.
- ❄ Use sand, or better yet, crushed gravel in place of a chemical deicer – especially if you have a well or live near water. Sweep up the sand or gravel to reuse for the next storm and to prevent damage to stream habitats.

Deicer	Lowest Effective Temperature, F*	Effect on Concrete/Metal	Effect on Carpet/Floors	Effect on Vegetation	Effect on Environment/Water Quality
Sodium chloride	-6	severe	slight	severe	moderate
Calcium chloride	-67	severe	severe	moderate	slight
Magnesium chloride	-28	severe	severe	moderate	slight
Potassium chloride	+13	severe	slight	moderate	slight
Calcium Magnesium Acetate	+15	slight	moderate	slight	slight/moderate
Urea and other nitrogen salts	variable	none/severe	moderate	slight	severe
Sand or gravel	–	slight	moderate	none	slight

\*The effective melting temperature depends on the concentration of the deicing chemical. Values generally represent the lowest effective melting temperature possible with highly concentrated solutions of the compound. (Source: Utah State University Extension, 2/99)

## DEP Exhibits at CCM Convention

**As part of our “Greening Local Government” initiative, the DEP Offices of Pollution Prevention and Recycling participated in the Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) convention on Oct. 9 at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, CT.**

The theme of the convention was “Local Governments: New Challenges, New Solutions.” This annual event provides an opportunity for hundreds of municipal officials throughout the state to attend workshops, network and share information about ways to improve local government. Vendors and exhibitors also offered products and services that can help CT cities and towns make better use of their limited resources.

The DEP exhibit showcased two cost-saving programs for municipalities: Implementing Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) (unit pricing for solid waste management) and Best Management Practices for Vehicle Maintenance and Repair (highlighting the newly revised, but not yet finalized, Pit Stops Fact Sheets). Staff was available throughout the day-long event to talk to municipal officials about these programs. While PAYT offers both fiscal and environmental benefits, municipal officials in CT have been resistant to implementing it, primarily because they feel residents will oppose it. However, there was much interest in Pit Stops, as towns look for ways to decrease costs and increase environmental compliance.

**For more information, contact Nan Peckham, DEP Pollution Prevention at (860) 424-3357 or [nan.peckham@po.state.ct.us](mailto:nan.peckham@po.state.ct.us).**

# It's that time of year again... the holidays.

**Yummy food, parties, gifts, and family. Preparing for the holiday celebrations can leave you frazzled and stress the environment as well. You can make this time fun and meaningful while consciously making an effort to reduce waste, save energy, and recycle. Here are some suggestions:**

- **Give a creative gift.** Gift-giving is a great pleasure, both for the giver and the recipient. But finding the right gift for all the special people in our lives can mean a seemingly endless shopping trip, exhausting to the spirit and the air! And who wants to give or receive something that might not be used or even discarded?



Think about what your special someone loves. A bike light for your favorite biking enthusiast, membership or tickets to an art museum or concert, a short series of music lessons, movie tickets, cooking lessons with meal included? Join your loved one and double the gift!

- **Make a special gift.** In a poll conducted by the Center for a New American Dream, a whopping 82% said they would rather have a photo album of times spent growing up than a store-bought gift. A family photo album or a book of family recipes is likely to be remembered for years and years. You can get more gift ideas at the New Dream website – [www.newdream.org/holiday/index.html](http://www.newdream.org/holiday/index.html).

- **Travel Lightly.** If air travel is in your holiday plans you might be able to offset those extra tons of greenhouse gases with plans to commute to work by bus or van for the winter. Instead of getting into the car and driving around for the perfect gift, first try websites, catalogues and the yellow pages to turn up just the right present. Visit local places to shop and eat.

- **Make the Wrapping a Gift.** Try a reusable container for your gift—a basket, colorful bag, scarf or tin could be the perfect container.



- **Celebrate with Locally Produced Items.** A wide selection of gourmet foods and crafts produced in the state can be purchased at the Connecticut Creative Store run by the Department of Agriculture ([www.ct.gov/doag/](http://www.ct.gov/doag/) then click on CT Creative Store on the right). Or check out your local farmstand or supermarket for locally grown or produced items.

- **Use Energy-Saving Decorative Lighting.** For many, twinkling lights are a way of sharing the joy. Look for LED holiday lights at your local store or online – they are more durable and a string of 100 lights only uses 2 to 3 watts of electricity (as compared to 50 watts for the traditional mini-lights or 700 watts for the larger 4-inch bulbs). Or shine the traditional bulbs for fewer hours.



- **Double Your Decorations With Cards.** Consider making, reusing or buying holiday cards that can be displayed on a tree (check out the store at the Museum of Modern Art for cards that open up to mobiles - [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org)). If you are the electronic type, send your list the perfect e-Card. Also, consider not sending cards this year and devoting the time to relaxing with loved ones or volunteering to help with holiday cheer for needy children. Recycle cards you receive by sending them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. They make them into new cards – [www.stjudesranch.org/Content/cardprogram.asp](http://www.stjudesranch.org/Content/cardprogram.asp).

## WHAT'S NEW IN P2?

FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEP

### Agency Organizational Evaluation Underway

In light of recent staffing losses and budget cuts, Commissioner Arthur Rocque, Jr. has asked DEP managers and staff to consider the Department's existing structure and evaluate other potential organizational structures. The goal of the analysis is to provide the Commissioner with options to create a flexible agency that can maximize its resources and continually assess, revise and update the priorities and strategies to achieve its mission today as well as address future challenges and opportunities. As an interim step, the decision was made to integrate staff from the Pollution Prevention office with the staff in the Ombudsman's Office. **The new, centrally located group will focus on the agency-wide strategic priority of environmental stewardship as outlined in the Department's Environmental Quality Branch Strategic Plan of FY 2002-2007.**

### Connecticut Adopts Dental Best Management Practices

The CT DEP, in cooperation with the Connecticut State Dental Association, has adopted best management practices for the use, storage and disposal of dental amalgam. The best management practices require, among other things, the installation of amalgam separators capable of removing at least 95% of the mercury from the discharge wastewater. These practices will help to reduce the amount of mercury that ends up in sewage sludge. Connecticut is one of the first states to require the installation of amalgam separators. **For more information, contact Tom Metzner at (860) 424-3242 or [tom.metzner@po.state.ct.us](mailto:tom.metzner@po.state.ct.us).**

# You "Auto" Know...

(continued from cover)

Since the beginning of the program, the DMV has forwarded more than 200 checklists to the DEP. This coming year, as reinforcement and follow-up to the DMV efforts, the Office of Pollution Prevention staff will mail the newly revised Pit Stops Fact Sheets to these businesses. These fact sheets will not only inform the facilities about what they are required to do by law, but will also educate them on best management practices they can utilize to prevent pollution.

The partnership between the DMV and the DEP has many benefits. Since the agencies are not visiting the same site multiple times, it is an efficient use of state resources and better public relations between businesses and the state. This cooperative effort is a great example of state agencies working together to protect the residents of CT and the environment. ■

**The Pit Stops are fact sheets specifically developed for the vehicle services industry.**

**They outline basic regulatory requirements and best management practices. The newly revised fact sheets are currently being reviewed and will be available for distribution early next year.**

**For more information, please contact Judy Prill, DEP Pollution Prevention, at (860) 424-3694 or [judith.prill@po.state.ct.us](mailto:judith.prill@po.state.ct.us).**



## P2 Lecture Series

DEP sponsors a monthly lecture series on pollution prevention topics. Lectures are free, open to the public, and are held from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the Phoenix Auditorium, DEP Building, 79 Elm St., Hartford.

For additional information, contact Lynn Stoddard at 860-424-3236 or go to [www.dep.state.ct.us/calendar/calendar.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/calendar/calendar.htm).



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
[www.dep.state.ct.us](http://www.dep.state.ct.us)  
Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner

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