

## Lead Disposal

This information sheet outlines the acceptable disposal options for lead-containing materials. Proper handling and disposal of waste lead will minimize the risk to human health and safety, and the environment.

Lead is a toxic heavy metal found naturally in the environment as well as in many man-made products. It can cause harmful human health and ecological impacts. Lead is toxic to living organisms and can accumulate in the food chain if released into the environment. Initiatives to reduce Canadians' exposure to lead-containing materials started in the 1970s, but lead can still be found in items such as pipes, batteries, sheeting, solder, ammunition, ceramics, fishing weights, computer screens and paint. Although all consumer paint produced in Canada is now lead-free, many older structures remain covered with lead-containing paint. These structures commonly include metal bridges, water tanks, oil storage tanks, and buildings.

Environment Yukon's *Special Waste Regulations* apply to materials that contain lead over the leachable limit of 5.0 mg/L in a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). If you are unsure whether your materials contain lead, test strips can be purchased locally, or a sample can be sent to an accredited laboratory for analytical results. If the leachability test results are over 5.0 mg/L, the material is considered to be a special waste and must be dealt with according to the *Special Waste Regulations*.

Because there are no special waste disposal facilities in the Yukon, many lead-containing items including liquid paint that contains lead and leaded paint chips, must be shipped out of the territory for disposal.

### Homeowners

Homeowners may dispose of small amounts of lead-contaminated items at a landfill. If there is more than 5 kg or 5L of material, a TCLP test must be done by an accredited laboratory before disposal. The landfill operator must be informed that the material contains lead, and must segregate it appropriately at the landfill, ensuring that there is proper signage and that the material is segregated in an area inaccessible to workers at the site.

### Businesses/Industrial Operations

Businesses and industrial operations may dispose of lead-containing materials in a landfill if the quantity is less than 5 kg or 5 L. If there is more than 5 kg or 5 L of lead-containing materials a TCLP leachability test must be performed by an accredited laboratory and the material must be

considered to be special waste and must be transported out of the territory to a special waste disposal facility under a transport manifest and permit. Please contact the Environmental Protection and Assessment Branch for more information on businesses who offer this disposal service.

For information regarding workplace safety when handling lead-contaminated materials, please refer to the links below.

## Additional Resources

- Special Waste Regulations:  
[www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/regs/oic1995\\_047.pdf](http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/regs/oic1995_047.pdf)
  - Yukon Occupational Health Regulations (s. 22, 29, 30):  
<https://wcb.yk.ca/Regulations/LIB0209.aspx>
  - Occupational Health and Safety Act:  
[http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/acts/ochesa\\_c.pdf](http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/acts/ochesa_c.pdf)
- Health Canada Fact Sheet on Lead:  
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/contaminants/lead-plomb/index-eng.php>

### For more information on the Environment Act, please contact:

Government of Yukon  
Environmental Protection and Assessment  
Branch (V-8)  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2C6

Phone: 867-667-5683  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5683  
Fax: 867-393-6205  
Email: [envprot@gov.yk.ca](mailto:envprot@gov.yk.ca)  
Web: [www.yukon.ca](http://www.yukon.ca)

The Environment Act and regulations may be viewed online at [www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/env.html](http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/env.html), or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, request by email [queens.printer@gov.yk.ca](mailto:queens.printer@gov.yk.ca) or mail: Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703 (W-4), Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone 867-667-5146 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, extension 5146).