



TOOLBOX NEWSLETTER

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are many products commonly found at auto shops that are defined under hazardous regulations. Some are:

- Spoiled gasoline (*Ignitable*)
- Certain washer solutions (*Ignitable*)
- Many aerosol products (*Ignitable*)
- Certain paints and paint thinners (*Ignitable*)
- Waste diesel fuel (*Combustible*)
- Lead wheel weights (*Toxic*)
- Battery acid (*Corrosive*)
- Certain concentrated cleaning products (*Corrosive*)

For more information, go to <https://doee.dc.gov/service/hazardous-waste>



## TOOLBOX

JUNE 2020



*Fix-It Clinics are community events dedicated to changing the "throw-it-away" mentality. Visitors bring their broken items to the Fix-It Clinic where volunteer Fix-It coaches provide guidance in troubleshooting how to repair each item. (Photo by DOEE)*

## CELEBRATE REPAIR: LEARN BY HELPING OTHERS DISASSEMBLE AND TROUBLESHOOT THEIR STUFF

Sign up to be a Fix-It DC Coach in your community. Fix-It DC is an all-ages community event where people bring their broken household things and learn how to assess, disassemble, and repair them instead of sending them to the landfill. We're looking for volunteer coaches with knowledge and skills to repair electronics and musical instruments.

Being a Fix-It DC Coach is easy: simply provide participants with 1) encouragement to investigate their broken item and 2) guidance with tools. Be a listener more than a repairer; let them talk about how they used the item and how it broke, that often provides valuable hints as to what's wrong. See how much you can do without actually handling the item: empower the item's owner to do the troubleshooting and disassembly. Move among items and consult with others to cross-train and maximize transfer of knowledge for everybody -- including you!

## SIGN UP

The GreenWrench Program provides free pollution prevention guidance and training to District auto body and repair shops. GreenWrench services are all free and include:

1. Technical assistance visits
2. Workshops
3. GreenWrench Toolbox Newsletter
4. Certification

Sign up online at [doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench](https://doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench) or by calling (202) 645-4231.

**FIRST TIME FIXIT COACHES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME:** You learn too: floating from item to item and consulting with other others to cross-train and maximize transfer of knowledge is heartily encouraged. (Fixing families welcome as well)

Our Fix-It Coaches have found that participating in Fix-It DC is a valuable way to promote their business and meet potential new customers. If you would like to learn more about Fix-It DC program, or would like to sign up to be a coach, visit our website at <https://doee.dc.gov/service/fix-it-dc>.



GREEN WRENCH CERTIFICATION IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Shops can apply to become GreenWrench Certified. Certification can be achieved by both being in compliance with environmental regulations and taking action to further reduce sources of land, air, and water pollution. To become certified, shops that are in compliance with all appropriate environmental regulations will need to complete the three qualifying activities and an additional six activities that are listed in this application. Shops can propose other activities to DOEE for consideration. Once certified, shops will be listed on DOEE’s GreenWrench website and will receive a window decal to advertise to customers that the shop meets and exceeds environmental standards.

The GreenWrench Application can be found at: [https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service\\_content/attachments/GreenWrench%20Application%20v1.6.pdf](https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service_content/attachments/GreenWrench%20Application%20v1.6.pdf)

The application process is:

1. Submit completed applications:

Email: [GWE@dc.gov](mailto:GWE@dc.gov)

Mail: Department of Energy and Environment  
GreenWrench c/o Watershed Protection Division  
1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

2. DOEE will review and contact for follow-up and approval

3. Apply each year to keep certification current



SHOPS WANTED:  
RECEIVE FREE PRODUCTS TO REVIEW



DOEE has an opportunity for shops to test products for FREE in exchange for an honest review of the products received.

Products available to receive:

1. Non VOC degreaser-

Many common vehicle maintenance activities have the potential to contribute to land, air, and water pollution. Volatile compounds in aerosol degreasers are common pollutants. A lot of these products are petroleum-based solvents and chlorinated solvents. These products will be from the EPA Safer Choice list.

Benefits of switching:

- Non-toxic alternative/ safer for employees
- Non-hazardous waste alternative
- Cheaper to dispose of

Shops interested will receive several bottles of a Non VOC Degreaser and will have two months to test and provide feedback on their experience.

2. Lead free wheel weights-

Seven states have banned use of lead wheel weights, with Maryland being the latest in 2017. There is a likely-hood that there may be a nation-wide ban or District banning in future. Aluminum, steel, zinc, and other non-lead wheel weights are available to the industry.

Benefits of switching:

- Hazardous waste source reduction
- Reduce risk of lead poisoning
- Long-term cost savings

Shops interested will receive a lead free weigh kit and will have three months to test and provide feedback on their experience.

Interested or want more information?

Please reach out to DOEE’s Mary Polacek.  
Email: [mary.polacek@dc.gov](mailto:mary.polacek@dc.gov)  
Phone: 202-897-5341

SAVE MONEY WITH AN ENERGY AND WATER AUDIT

Businesses that invest in energy and water efficiency improvements decrease pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and save money on costs. Most small businesses spend 10% or more of their expenses utilities. Lower consumption can result in lower utility bills. And improving energy efficiency is especially important to implement before installing solar panels because it reduces the energy demand which could result in a smaller system. A business can start the process by conducting an energy and water audit.

An audit establishes a baseline for current usage, informs business owners on how current equipment is operating, and identifies ways to improve. You can perform your own assessment with a simple walkthrough and checklist to examine equipment for leaks, identify appliances and lighting other ways energy and water is wasted. Another option is to hire a professional to conduct the audit. A professional can performs a more detailed audit.

Improvements from the audit may include: upgrading lighting to LEDs; replacing equipment and appliances at the end of their useful life with ENERGY STAR® certified ones; and installing programmable thermostats to automatically adjust temperatures when the building is unoccupied. In many scenarios making these improvements can result in a return on investment in less than five years.

Low cost improvements can include:

- 1) Buying power strips for electronics to prevent phantom energy. Items such as computers and printers that are plugged in use energy even when they are not in use. Turning off a power strip will stop that energy pull and save energy.
- 2) Install signs to remind users to turn off the lights upon exit, or installing motion sensors to automatically turn off lights when not in use.
- 3) Perform routine maintenance on HVAC equipment and set reminders that change filters.
- 4) Install EPA WaterSense certified, low flow fixtures.

The DC Sustainable Energy Utility offers recommendations for professional auditors, rebates, and custom incentives on many of the improvements listed above. Contact the DCSEU at (202) 479-2222 or [info@dcseu.com](mailto:info@dcseu.com) for more information.

Learn about financial incentives at: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/energy-efficiency-programs-businesses>

Access the ENERGY STAR® Action Workbook for small business which includes details on audits at: [https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/tools/Action%20Workbook\\_Small%20Business\\_0.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/tools/Action%20Workbook_Small%20Business_0.pdf)

