# Paint Stripping

## Potential Environmental Impacts:

Many paint strippers are solvent-based, and contain chemicals that are dangerous to humans. Some are flammable, and most can cause water and air pollution if not handled properly. Toxic chemicals in paint strippers may include methylene chloride (also called dichloromethane, or DCM), methyl ethyl ketone (or 2-Butanone), acetone, toluene, methanol, N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), or xylene. There are some less environmentally damaging and less hazardous paint strippers available on the market.

## Legal Requirements:

- A hazardous waste determination must be conducted to establish whether or not disposal of used paint strippers is subject to hazardous waste regulations [40 CFR 262.11; RCSA §22a-449(c)-102(a)(2)(A)]. A hazardous waste determination must also be conducted on any materials used to clean up a spill. Manage hazardous waste as described in Appendix B.
- If there is a stormwater discharge from your facility, you may have to register for a *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity* ("Stormwater General Permit"). See Appendix F for more information.

## Best Management Practices:

✪ Consider alternatives to chemical paint stripping depending on the characteristics of the surface being stripped, the type of paint being removed, and the volume and type of waste produced. Alternatives include scraping, sanding, and/or abrasive blasting. Use a heat gun to remove paint and varnish where appropriate. See the "Scraping and Sanding" and "Abrasive Blasting" fact sheets for more information.

✪ If paint strippers must be used, use soy-based or water-based products, which are less hazardous.

✪ Use only the minimum amount of paint stripper needed for a job.

✪ Prevent evaporation by using tight fitting lids or stoppers. Reducing evaporation protects air quality, saves product and money.

✪ Reduce the chance of spills during transport by storing unused paint stripper where it's used most in the shop. Place the product on an impervious base.

✪ Encourage careful use by informing all workers and operators of the hazardous nature of solvents and the purchasing and recycling costs.

✪ Train employees to use less paint stripper, to properly store new and used paint strippers, to use wise clean-up procedures, and prevent leaks and spills.

## Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

✔ Do you reduce use of solvent-based paint strippers by changing practices or product?

**YES** **NO** **N/A**

**R**eplacing solvent-based paint strippers with non-hazardous alternatives may reduce your environmental liability and may reduce your hazardous waste management requirements by changing your hazardous waste generator status.