



Business Spotlight

Ed's Premier Auto Body 2013 Clean Air Award Recipient

Ed's Premier Auto Body of Spokane is the 2013 Clean Air Award recipient for demonstrating innovation, leadership and a strong commitment to reducing their air emissions.

"Ed's Premier Auto Body has a comprehensive approach to auto body repair which has improved their efficiency and reduced their air emissions," stated Bill Dameworth, Spokane Clean Air Director.

Emission reductions include toxic air pollutants and volatile organic compounds, which are a contributor to ground-level ozone.

One key strategy to reduce emissions during the auto body process is to increase the paint transfer efficiency. High transfer efficiency lowers business costs by saving paint, while decreasing emissions. High transfer efficiency also reduces expenses by reducing maintenance needs including reduced filter changes, booth cleaning and waste disposal costs.

Ed's paint manufacturer, PPG, offers a comprehensive painter training program in Seattle. Ed's employees are required to pass the training prior to painting.

"In our journey toward excellence, we discovered we are only as good as our employees, and so we believe in proper employee training," stated Jason Keen, co-owner of Ed's.

Maintenance and record keeping are also key factors in the success of the shop. They have maintenance schedules that involve every employee, which allows for cross training.

"Their unique maintenance and record keeping practices ensures employees are held accountable and it's why they are one of the cleanest shops we see," stated Derek Aubrey, Spokane Clean Air inspector.



An employee applies a coat of paint in the Paint Booth at Ed's Premier Auto Body Shop.

"We are at the forefront of innovation when it comes to employee training, maintenance and record-keeping in the repair and refinish process," said Keen. "We are always striving to improve ourselves to become more efficient, save money and reduce our environmental footprint.

About 15 years ago, the company began distilling dirty solvents and recapturing solvents from waste paints to reuse. They currently distill about 10 gallons of dirty solvent per day, reducing their hazardous

wastes to less than 120 gallons per year. Without recycling the solvents, they would generate 2,600 gallons of hazardous waste per year. Over 15 years, that equates to 36,000 gallons of solvents that have been recycled and reused instead of becoming hazardous waste. The shop also recycles the waste oil and antifreeze generated from repair jobs.

At the end of 2012, Ed's Premier Auto Body participated in an energy audit with their utility provider. As a result, they upgraded their lighting to new, efficient light fixtures and retrofitted their natural gas heating system with a wireless, programmable control.

"Adequate lighting is important for our line of work. To provide a quality collision repair job, we need to be able to see all the imperfections, including small dents and uneven surfaces," stated Keen.

"The upgrades they have invested in for their facility have improved the building's efficiency, resulting in reduced electricity and natural gas use, which also equates to reduced air pollution emissions," added Dameworth.

Congratulations to the owners and employees of Ed's Premier Auto Body! Your efforts benefit us all by improving the air we breathe. ■

For more information about Spokane Clean Air's business recognition program, visit www.spokaneleanair.org