Varnishing

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Spills of oil-based varnishes may be detrimental to the marine and aquatic environment. Since they are petroleum-based, spills may have an impact similar to oil spills. Chemicals in varnishes can be highly flammable and potentially harmful to human health.

Legal Requirements:

- Many varnishes are composed of hazardous materials. You must determine if your waste varnish is hazardous [40 CFR 262.11; RCSA §22a-449(c)-102(a)(2)(A)]. A hazardous waste determination must also be conducted for any materials used to clean 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:

✪ Avoid the disposal problem of leftover varnish by mixing only as much as is needed for a given job. Consider sharing leftover varnishes with customers or setting up an exchange area for customers to swap unused items.

✪ Use less hazardous, water-based varnishes which pose less of a threat to human health or the environment.

✪ In case of spills of varnish on land, use absorbent material to clean it up, and collect any contaminated soils. Spills in waterways should be contained and mopped up with booms or pads that repel water but absorb petroleum.

Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

No Clean Marina certification criteria specific to varnishing.