

Clean Air · Clean Waters · Clean Cities & Roads

Working together will let us reach these goals



We welcome your feedback, input and personal visits!

Blue Sky Filters, Inc.

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IMPORTANT WARNING TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Subject: Dust bag/cartridge and filter cleaning services.

Not all filter services are the same! PLEASE compare and make your decision to use a filter cleaning service based on your needs, not just price!

Since the passage of the Clean Air Act and The Clean Water Act the terms “Cradle to Grave”, “Potentially Responsible Party”, and “Originator” have been used to place responsibility on the original generator (you) and contractors handling the generator’s waste (filter service). The courts place final responsibility on the generator for any contaminated waste (baghouse dust, waste or fume) and subsequent wastes created from those wastes. This includes wastes improperly handled and created by your filter service. Ultimately, the liability and responsibility falls on the original generator (YOU)! PLEASE contact your environmental officer or consultant to discuss your exposure when using a non compliant filter service.

OUR POSITION

Blue Sky Filters, Inc. has been in business since 1975, with its’ focus on recycling and environmentally friendly products and services. Our original premise was to not just clean but to develop some type of recycling and reuse of filters. Again in 1998 we made the decision to improve and establish a company that not only operated within the Federal and Local Clean Air and Water Acts, but also to protect our customers and employees from generated waste and landfill pollution exposure.

While hundreds of other filter cleaners around the country are discharging directly “down the drain” and not meeting local, state and federal compliances, we feel this practice is wrong and irresponsible. We feel we need to conduct our business within proper legal and ethical guidelines and it is the “right thing” to do! You and our nation have spent billions of dollars on clean air and water controls and we want to be a good steward of our environment and protect it for future generations!

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- 1) Containment. **Dirty bags and cartridges are handled in closed, reusable crates or totes, or picked-up by our contained truck. UPS and common carriers have shipping restrictions on loose or dirty shipments containing dusts or hazardous materials.**
- 2) No cross contamination. **Our facility is designed to clean dust collection filters, not truck filters, or clothes, linens and towels used for human use. Local clothing and linen laundries should not be cleaning contaminated dust collection bags! Please also be aware that all food use filters are processed separately in our facility.**
- 3) Continuous monitoring and control of our water waste. **Over \$200,000 has been spent in three years to develop a treatment system capable of removing the varied dusts and contaminants from your filters (see opposite page). The Local & Federal Clean Water Act requires all wash type facilities to meet strict discharge standards, and in 2001-2002 those standards will be even more restrictive.**
- 4) Disposal of sludge waste created from filter cleaning. **The dusts and sludge created is combined, treated and pH balanced in such a way as to make it desirable for mixing with wood wastes and grass clippings to make a very high quality ground cover— not landfill.**
- 5) Filter bag and element disposal. **Rejected filters are cleaned prior to landfill disposal or returned to the customer upon request, becoming the customer's responsibility to dispose of as they see fit.**
* We are presently working with a waste to energy company to use the cleaned filters as a source of fuel for generating energy.
- 6) Recycled water. **This year (2001) our focus is on reuse of our wash and runoff waters. All of our lot wash down, rain water and plant clean-up waters are being treated and this year we will be helping with water conservation by re-using much of our water**
- 7) Employee exposure. **All employees associated with handling dust and wastes have been instructed in proper handling procedures, tested in respirator fit and use, and required to attend company sponsored internal safety meetings.**
- 8) Line Item Invoicing. **A small fee is charged and shown on your invoice showing that we have handled your filter waste within approved guidelines. The fee does not cover the costs but it is our statement of commitment to you and indicates our responsibility for this waste.**

