

EPA Begins Cleanup at Michigan Industrial Finishes

Michigan Industrial Finishes Site
Hamtramck, Michigan

January 2005

EPA cleanup actions

EPA's mission is to protect the health of people and the environment. One of the ways we do this is through two Superfund programs: long-term cleanup programs and immediate, short-term cleanups.

Michigan Industrial Finishes is a short-term cleanup because the containers found there represent an immediate and substantial danger to the surrounding community if not taken care of in a timely manner.

For more information

You may see copies of documents related to the cleanup of the Michigan Industrial Finishes site in the information repository at:

Albert Zak Memorial Library
2360 Caniff Ave.
Hamtramck

You may also visit:
www.epaosc.org

Click on "**Web Sites**," then click **Region 5** on the map and scroll down to the Michigan Industrial Finishes entry, or visit other parts of the site to learn more about short-term cleanups in general.

For more information on EPA visit:
www.epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun removing 55-gallon drums full of hazardous materials from buildings at the Michigan Industrial Finishes Corp. site on Vincent Street in Hamtramck. The drums and other containers are used to store paint and paint-related waste that EPA considers hazardous.

EPA contractors began clearing out the manufacturing buildings on the site Dec. 13. Workers have been testing the contents of containers, then sorting and removing them. So far, approximately 700 empty or

nearly empty drums have been cleaned out and sent to an approved disposal facility. More than 1,300 additional drums containing larger amounts of waste have been sorted. The contents are being tested to find out what exactly what is in each container. This will help EPA determine how to clean up the containers and where they should be sent for disposal.

This project is expected to be completed in about six months.

Sampling and testing

EPA will also remove and dispose of all soil that is visibly contaminated, and is planning to collect samples of the remaining soil to find out the extent of the soil contamination. Throughout the project, workers are monitoring the air to ensure that harmful vapors do not threaten area residents or workers.



An EPA contractor rinses out a 55-gallon drum.



The Michigan Industrial Finishes cleanup is expected to be completed in about six months.

Site background

Michigan Industrial Finishes Corp. made industrial coatings at its Vincent Street location. The site is in a residential and light industrial area, with railroad tracks to the west, other light industrial business to the north and south, and Vincent Street and private homes to the east. The site includes two main buildings with a covered loading dock.

EPA has found about 4,000 55-gallon drums containing various substances, as well as 20 250-

gallon containers, several 3,000-gallon mixing tanks or above-ground storage tanks, and over 100 small containers.

The facility was cited numerous times for fire code violations. As a result of environmental violations, Michigan Industrial Finishes Corp. had operated under a legal agreement with the state of Michigan and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality since April 11, 1997. However, on Nov. 3, MDEQ ordered the company to cease operations and to clean up the site. MDEQ asked for federal assistance, and EPA began the current project Dec. 6.

For more information

For more information about the Michigan Industrial Finishes site, please contact:

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