

PRESS RELEASE

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ARNOLD'S BODY SHOP ADOPTS GREEN PAINTING TECHNOLOGY

Auto shop becomes Eastern Iowa's first to incorporate waterborne system

Davenport, IA – John Arnold, owner of Arnold's Body Shop in Davenport, today announced the shop's successful conversion to an entirely waterborne paint delivery system. The new system replaces conventional, petroleum solvent-based coatings and processes commonly used for auto finishes since cars first took to the streets. The change marks the latest in a series of improvements made over the past several years designed to reduce the operation's environmental footprint by reducing waste and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) that are the result of the painting process.

Commenting on the latest change, Mr. Arnold stated, "We knew we'd be pushing the envelope in terms of taking a Midwest auto shop to a waterborne system. Properly drying and heat curing an auto finish is always a challenge, given our Iowa weather." Arnold offered that the payoff should make the effort worthwhile. "Akzo-Nobel is our vendor-partner in this effort. They have helped us immensely. I expect a first-year reduction in VOC of about 54% and an overall year-to-year reduction in hazardous air pollutants of around 91%," he says. These hazardous air pollutants contribute to the production of ground-level ozone, a key ingredient in the production of urban smog.

Given the scope of the transition and the normal challenges of maintaining Arnold's high standards in the midst of an Iowa summer, Arnold reports that the switch presented relatively few problems. "We shut things down on Friday, June 13th and we were up and running the following Monday."

Arnold's is one of a handful of auto body shops in the country to adopt the new, environmentally friendly technology. The country's first applications went online in urban centers on the coasts in response to increased regulation enacted to mitigate smog and related air quality concerns. "We don't have the same conditions here--yet," Arnold observes. "In any case, we felt it was important to get ahead of the curve. Maybe we can avoid some of the problems other places are trying to clean up if we make the changes now." Arnold's is one of two body shops in the state of Iowa to switch to waterborne paint delivery systems in the past year. The other is in Des Moines.

The successful completion of the project will be celebrated on Thursday, August 7th with an invitation-only open house. John Arnold and his staff will be joined by representatives from Akzo-Nobel, the Iowa Waste Reduction Center and several Iowa State legislators. The event will begin with a press conference starting at 4:30pm. Details about the technology and its potential impact for Iowa will be available.

Arnold's Body Shop is located at 3514 Vine Street in Davenport. The company was founded by Duayne and Marion Arnold in 1969. Today, Arnold's has become one of the largest volume auto collision specialists in the Quad Cities. The company family includes 25 human associates responsible for maintaining high quality standards and three four-legged friends who serve as greeters.

For more information please call or visit www.arnoldsbodysshop.com.

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