

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **AUTO BODY EXPERTS IS THE FIRST AUTOBODY REPAIR SHOP IN KITSAP COUNTY TO EARN ENVIROSTARS RECOGNITION AND A \$200 REBATE IN A PILOT PROJECT WITH THE PUGET SOUND CLEAN AIR AGENCY!**

Auto Body Experts is *the first autobody repair shop* in Kitsap County to earn recognition as an EnviroStar in a special program with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA)! EnviroStars and PSCAA have joined forces with the autobody industry to protect the region's air, water, and soil by reducing hazardous waste and air pollution. The Autobody Craftsman Association and the Automotive Service Association of Washington played an active role in developing the pilot program. Both organizations have endorsed the program for their members. Autobody shops meeting the EnviroStars/ PSCAA air emission and hazardous waste standards can receive a \$200 refund check and no routine air inspections.

Auto Body Experts was awarded a four-star (out of five) rating which shows a strong commitment to pollution prevention and hazardous waste reduction. The business received special recognition during a ceremony yesterday, December 1, at the shop where PSCAA officials handed Jim Kurle, Auto Body Experts owner, his \$200 refund check.

In business since 1991, owner Jim Kurle and his staff know what it takes to run a top-notch facility. From start to finish environmental considerations play an integral part in the repair process. Product choices are made giving preference to less toxic alternatives. For example, low VOC (volatile organic compound) lead-free paints are used and cars are washed with biodegradable, non-phosphate soap. Used oil, antifreeze, refrigerant, and waste paint are recycled along with sheetmetal, cardboard, paper, batteries, and repairable plastics. Equipment and technology also play a part in Auto Body Experts' success. Computerized paint mixing minimizes paint waste by mixing just the right amount for a job. High volume low pressure (HVLV) paint sprayguns then deliver the paint with a minimum amount of paint waste. Above industry standard equipment includes positive-pressure fresh-air respirators that protect staff during vehicle spraycoating. The spray booth is state-of-the-art, with a special filtration system to capture the maximum amount of airborne particulates.

Auto Body Experts is located at 3203-A NE Totten Road in Poulsbo and can be reached by phone at (360) 779-4445. For more information about EnviroStars or the joint pilot project, contact the Kitsap County Health District, (360) 337-5604.

\*updated contact information as of 6/4/03