



2015 CASE STUDY

Solvent Recovery for Municipal Road Painting Operations

Industry: Municipal Services

Unit Installed: SSB-8 Solvent Saver System

The Challenge

The City of Burnaby's road painting department is responsible for maintaining traffic markings across municipal streets, using specialized trucks equipped with pressurized air guns to apply reflective paint. After each use, these guns must be cleaned with a solvent known as "gun wash," which creates a waste mixture of paint and toluene.

Previously, this waste was collected and shipped off-site for disposal—a process that was both costly and environmentally inefficient. Each drum of fresh toluene cost approximately \$600, and disposal added another \$100 per drum. With increasing pressure to reduce operational costs and improve sustainability, the department needed a reliable, in-house solution to recover and reuse solvent safely and efficiently.

The solution had to be compact, easy to operate, and capable of delivering high recovery rates without disrupting daily operations.

The Solution

Maratek installed the **SSB-8 Solvent Saver System**, a compact batch unit designed for small-scale solvent recovery.

The system enabled City of Burnaby to:

- Recover up to 80% of used toluene
- Reuse solvent directly in their operations
- Avoid purchasing new drums at \$600 per 55 gallons
- Eliminate \$100 per drum in off-site disposal costs
- Operate with minimal training and maintenance
- Reduce environmental impact by minimising solvent waste and transport emissions

The Result

- **Cost Savings:** Burnaby saved an average of \$480 per drum, significantly reducing annual solvent expenses.
- **Waste Reduction:** The department diverted hundreds of gallons of solvent waste from landfill and incineration.
- **Operational Efficiency:** The SSB-8's simple "bag and batch" process allowed staff to recycle solvent with minimal effort or downtime.
- **Environmental Impact:** By recycling in-house, Burnaby reduced its carbon footprint and aligned with municipal sustainability goals.
- **Quiet Operation:** The unit's low noise profile made it ideal for use in municipal facilities without disrupting other operations.

Hear from The Client

"Maratek's unit has worked really well. We have been using it to recycle toluene from road paints, but most surprising of all – we can't believe how quiet it is."

- **Mike Demeda, Road Painting Dept., City of Burnaby**

Why Maratek?

With over 50 years of experience and 1,500+ systems installed, Maratek is trusted by municipalities for its compact, reliable, and cost-effective solvent recovery solutions. The SSB-8 helped Burnaby meet its sustainability and budget goals with ease.