

Dangerous Waste Guidance for Gas Stations

Gas stations across the state produce dangerous wastes such as:

- Gas-soaked kitty litter or other absorbent from leaks or spills.
- Gas and water mixtures (from well testing, spill buckets, sumps, and stormwater runoff).
- Sludges from the catch basin and oil water separators.
- Contaminated wastewater from car washes.



If not managed properly, these wastes can damage the environment and put employees, your property, and the community at risk.

As a single gas station, you may think the small amounts of these wastes you generate are not such a big deal.

However, when you multiply these small wastes by the number of gas stations across the state, they become a much larger problem.

Dangerous wastes pollute drinking water supplies and cause health concerns. They can be toxic, flammable, and sometimes caustic. They don't belong on the ground, down the drain, or in the dumpster.

Good dangerous waste management and safety practices:

- Ensures that you comply with the dangerous waste regulations and avoid costly penalties.
- Reduces risks to your employees, your property, and your community.
- Shows that you are helping to maintain a clean and healthy environment in Washington State.

Why it Matters

Clean, abundant water was once taken for granted in Washington State as a free, unlimited resource. Today, after more than a century of dramatic population growth and climate change we know our water resources are not unlimited and certainly not free.

Population growth and associated development increase the demand for clean, abundant water and increase pollution problems.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is committed to ensuring the state has clean, adequate water supplies that meet current and future drinking water needs, commercial and agricultural uses, and to sustain fish and the natural environment.

Special accommodations

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Properly manage dangerous waste

- Store ignitable waste in fireproof containers.
- Ship waste according to the United States Department of Transportation regulations.
- Make sure containers and wastes are compatible.
- Manage contact water or water from testing wells as dangerous waste, or test and designate each drum.
- Check spill buckets before and after every delivery. Remove any debris, liquid, and ice.

Only rain down the drain

- When power-washing, prevent wash water from flowing into storm drains and ditches.
 - Block storm drains with mats.
 - Use sand bags to direct water to the collection area.
 - Use sump pump and hose(s) to direct water to sewer.
- Do not put liquid from spill buckets down the drain. Remove the liquid and dispose of it properly.
- Do not allow soapy water into the storm drain.
- Know where your drains go. It is vital in case of a fire, spill, or other emergency. Get maps showing where they lead. Contact your public utility for assistance.
- Know if your site has pretreatment. Is your pretreatment inspected? How often? Where are records kept?



See Ecology's [Storm Water Manual for Western Washington IV](#) or [Storm Water Manual for Eastern Washington](#) for more information.

Underground storage tanks

Training

Ecology requires training for persons who own, manage, or work at gas stations that have underground storage tanks (USTs). The training ensures familiarity with preventative maintenance, leak detection requirements, and that proper safety and emergency procedures are followed. The types of operators are defined in WAC 173-360-730 and are briefly described below.

- **Tank operators (usually the owner or manager) require Class A/B training.** Training is in-depth and covers the general requirements, operation, and maintenance of UST systems.
- **Cashier (or other designated on-site individual) who is responsible for responding to emergencies and spills when a Class A or B operator is not on site requires Class C training.** At all times a facility is in use someone **must** have at least a Class C certification.

Class A/B and Class C operator trainings are provided by approved trainers. Class C operators may also be trained by the Class A/B operator. For more information on operator training, see 173-360-730 WAC (requirements), -760 (records and retention), or -120 (definitions). To find a list of approved trainers, call the UST inspector in your area or visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/ust-lust/OperatorTraining/OperatorTraining.html.

Emergencies

Each UST facility must have signage posted that provides emergency response information.

Emergency signs *must* be visible to anyone dispensing or delivering fuel. Sign(s) should be installed prominently on the building nearest the dispensers. A minimum of one sign is required per facility, but if it cannot be easily located due to the size of the facility, it is advisable to post extra signs. In some situations, Ecology may require more signs.

An emergency sign should identify the location of the emergency shut-off device, a fire extinguisher, and instructions in case of an emergency. An example might look like:

<p>EMERGENCY: FIRE, SPILL, OR RELEASE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use Emergency Shut-off (next to front door).• Call the Fire Department _____ or 911.• Call the facility operator _____.• Fire extinguisher is located inside building. <p>John Doe Service Station 1234 Service Station Road Seattle WA 99999 Business phone: _____</p>

- Owners, managers, and employees must know what to do in the event of a spill.
- Operators must keep a spills log.
- Create and maintain a written spill plan.
- Consult your ATG alarm flowchart in case of a spill.
- There should be a spill kit within 25 feet of all fueling stations. Spill kits should include:
 - Absorbent pads capable of containing 15 gallons of fuel.
 - Storm drain plug.
 - A non-water boom ten feet or more with a capacity of 12 gallons.
 - A non-metallic shovel.

For more information about signage, see Ecology's [Focus on Emergency Signage Required for UST Sites](#), publication #12-09-240.