



# Washington's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

Step by Step Fact Sheet for Hazardous Waste Generators

## Hazardous Waste: More common than you think

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**It's time to get serious about hazardous waste.**

Hazardous wastes are not just radioactive drums stored at Hanford. They are wastes **your** business or organization may generate every day.... spent solvents, ink sludges, heavy metals.

Hazardous wastes pose real threats to real people... cancer, nerve damage, polluted drinking water. They don't belong down the drain or in the dumpster.

That's why hazardous waste regulations exist. They are important. It's time to get serious about hazardous waste.

More reasons?

- ✓ You are legally and financially responsible for the proper handling of your wastes.
- ✓ You'll maintain your ability to get insurance or bank loans by correctly managing your wastes.
- ✓ You will be protecting yourself and others from serious illnesses and injury.
- ✓ You minimize the chances of not being able to sell your property because of contamination.
- ✓ You may save money in the long run by finding ways to reduce or recycle your wastes.
- ✓ You will be joining other businesses that believe Washington State stands for quality products and services and a clean, healthy environment.

Today, an important part of doing business includes determining if you generate hazardous waste. The citizens of Washington State are relying on your business to reduce hazardous wastes where possible, and to handle the remaining hazardous wastes in a safe manner.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) wants to help you understand and comply with the law. We're here to answer your questions. This Fact Sheet will start you off in the right direction.

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## Do you generate hazardous waste?

If your business is listed in the following table, you probably generate hazardous waste.

To be absolutely sure, you can talk with a Hazardous Waste Specialist at the nearest Department of Ecology regional office. Ask them if there is a hazardous waste fact sheet or booklet for your particular industry.

### Common Hazardous Wastes

Business (or Organization)	Acids/Bases	Cyanide Wastes	Dry Cleaning Wastes	Formaldehyde	Heavy Metals	Ignitable Wastes	Ink Sludges	Lead-acid Batteries	Pesticides	Preserving Agents	Reactives	Spent Solvents	Plating Wastes
Automotive Repair	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓		
Building Cleaning and Maintenance	✓										✓		
Chemical Manufacturers	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓		
Cleaning Agents and Cosmetics	✓			✓	✓			✓			✓		
Construction	✓				✓						✓		
Dry Cleaning			✓								✓		
Educational and Vocational Shops	✓							✓		✓	✓		
Electroplating	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Equipment Repair	✓			✓	✓						✓		
Formulators	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
Funeral Services				✓					✓		✓		
Furniture/Wood Manufacturing and Refinishing					✓						✓		
Laboratories	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Motor Freight Terminals and RR Transportation	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓		
Pesticide Application				✓	✓			✓			✓		
Photofinishing				✓	✓						✓		
Printing and Graphic Arts	✓			✓		✓					✓	✓	
Wood Preserving								✓	✓				

## Even small amounts of hazardous waste are regulated!

All businesses must identify their hazardous wastes (regardless of how little they produce) and determine what they must do under the law. The more hazardous waste you generate, the more requirements you have to follow under the state's Dangerous Waste Regulations (Chapter 173-303 WAC).

For a quick summary of the regulations for hazardous waste generators, large or small, ask the nearest Ecology regional office for a copy of the **Hazardous Waste Generator Checklist**.

## Hazardous wastes fall into many categories!

Some wastes are specifically **listed** in the Dangerous Waste Regulations as hazardous. Other wastes may be regulated because they exhibit certain hazardous waste **characteristics** (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, toxicity) or because they are waste mixtures which meet the **criteria** of toxicity or persistence. Even unused chemical products can be hazardous wastes if you decide to dispose of them.

### Listed Wastes

#### *Discarded Chemical Products*

#### Description

An unused, discarded, pure substance that has only one active ingredient, if listed on the Discarded Chemical Products List.

#### Examples

- many pesticides
- formaldehyde
- unrinsed containers

#### *Dangerous Waste Sources*

Hazardous wastes from **specific** industry sources (such as plating) and **generic** activities (such as degreasing operations) are listed in the Dangerous Waste Sources List<sup>2</sup>.

- spent solvents used in degreasing
- plating wastes
- many wastewater treatment sludges

### Characteristic Wastes

#### *Ignitable*

Liquids with a flash point less than 140° F, solids that are capable of causing a fire (through friction, absorption of moisture, or spontaneous chemical change), or any ignitable compressed gas.

- spent solvents
- solvent still bottoms
- ignitable paint wastes
- dry cleaning wastes
- waste inks containing flammable solvents

#### *Corrosive*

Aqueous substances with a pH less than or equal to 2, or greater than or equal to 12.5. Liquids that corrode steel at a rate greater than 0.25 inches per year are also considered corrosive<sup>2</sup>.

- acid from lead-acid batteries
- plating wastes

#### *Reactive*

Substances that are very unstable and rapidly, or violently change when mixed with or exposed to water, heat, pressure, or other materials. These substances, especially cyanide or sulfide compounds, may generate toxic gases under mildly acidic or alkaline conditions.

- chromic acids
- cyanide wastes
- perchlorates
- peroxides

#### *Toxic*

Wastes which, after testing through the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) by a professional laboratory, are found to contain high concentrations of certain pesticides, organic chemicals or heavy metals.

- photographic processing wastes (containing silver)
- ink sludges
- discarded pesticide products
- paint sludge from the recycling of spent solvents

### Criteria Wastes

#### *Toxic*

Contains chemical constituents that are toxic to fish and other animals<sup>2</sup>.

- paint booth wash water
- oil and transmission fluid
- asphalt

#### *Persistent*

Contains organic compounds, usually with fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine, that are persistent in the environment<sup>2</sup>.

- metal cutting oil
- methylene chloride and 1,1,1 trichloroethane

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## Why not reduce and recycle your wastes?

Waste reduction and recycling techniques work for all types and sizes of businesses. Emphasizing waste reduction and recycling in your business can help you:

- ✓ avoid costly waste transportation and disposal costs,
- ✓ reduce regulatory requirements resulting from waste generation,
- ✓ reduce operation costs by using less raw materials,
- ✓ improve workplace safety and health conditions, and
- ✓ improve the quality of our environment.

For more information on waste reduction and recycling techniques, call Ecology's Hazardous Substance Information Office toll-free at **1-800-633-7585**.

## Take the next step!

If you think your business generates hazardous waste, contact your nearest Ecology regional office to request other information that will help you understand and comply with hazardous waste regulations:

- 📄 **Hazardous Waste Fact Sheets** for certain industries, with practical advice for handling different wastes,
- 📄 **Hazardous Waste Generator Checklist** for a quick summary of your legal responsibilities as a generator of hazardous waste,
- 📄 **Checklist Fact Sheets** that describe each section of the Hazardous Waste Generator Checklist in more detail,
- 📄 **Hazardous Waste Services Directory** to help you find waste haulers, laboratories, recyclers and other services,
- 📄 **Glossary** of key terms,
- 📄 **Subject Index** that provides you with references and contacts for many of your hazardous waste questions, and
- 📄 **Dangerous Waste Regulations** (Chapter 173-303 WAC).

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While this Fact Sheet identifies some of the wastes and businesses covered by the generator requirements of the Dangerous Waste Regulations (Chapter 173-303 WAC), it does not replace them. Always refer to the regulations themselves for more detail or call a hazardous waste specialist at your nearest Ecology regional office.

Central Regional Office - Yakima (509) 575-2490  
Eastern Regional Office - Spokane (509) 329-3400  
Southwest Regional Office - Lacey(360) 407-6300  
Northwest Regional Office - Seattle(425) 649-7000

If you need this information in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711, or 800-833-6388 for TTY.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> "F listed" solvents (F001-5), as long as they make up less than 10 percent of a product before use, are not included as listed dangerous wastes.
- <sup>2</sup> Solid corrosive, low-level toxic, polychlorinated biphenyl and persistent (as long as not extremely hazardous) wastes are special waste that could possibly be taken to solid waste landfills if certain requirements are met.