



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# Does my business generate dangerous waste?

A guide for small quantity generators

Ecology Publication Number 16-04-027, Revised September 2016

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6700. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

# Dangerous waste is more common than you think.

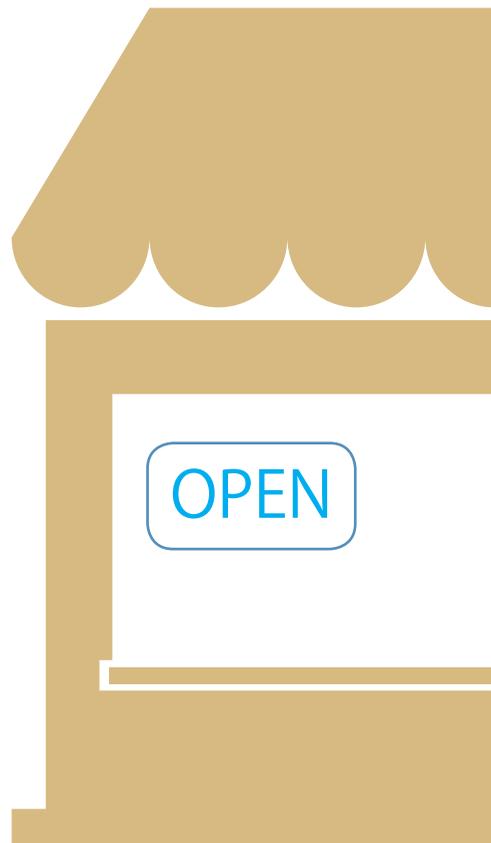
Many businesses in Washington generate some type of waste that's potentially harmful to our health and environment. You are required to determine whether your business generates any of this waste.

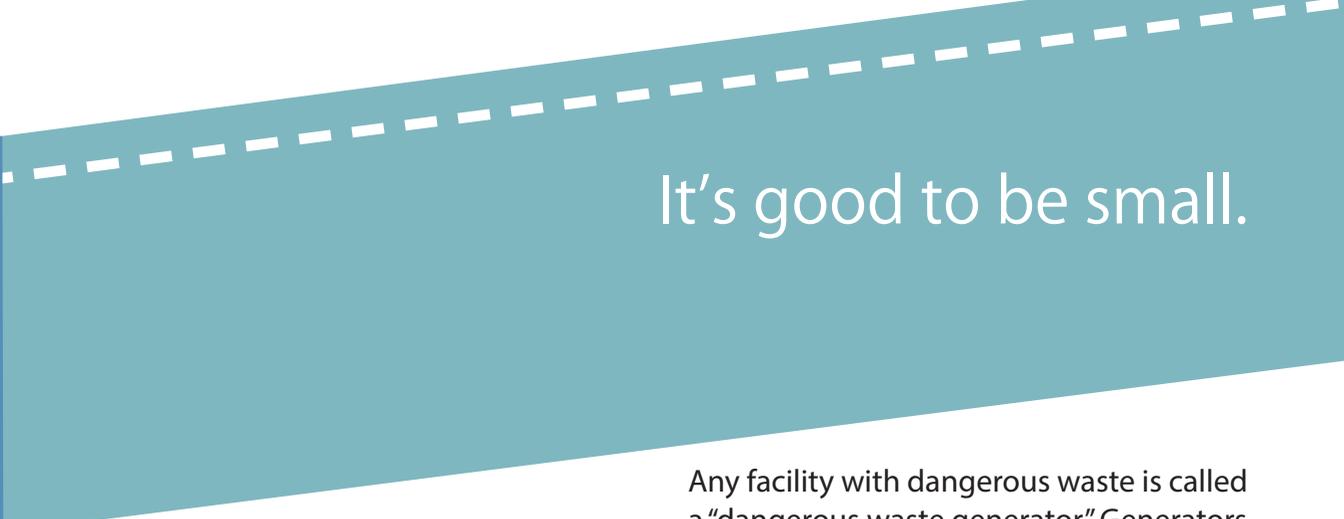
You can't just throw dangerous waste away or flush it down the drain. You must handle and dispose of it in a way that protects people and our environment. You are legally and financially responsible for managing your dangerous waste properly. The rules are in our state's Dangerous Waste Regulations (Chapter 173-303 WAC).

Many types of businesses generate dangerous waste, including:

- Auto repair and maintenance
- Dry cleaning
- Health care and dentistry\*
- Metal working
- Painting
- Building cleaning and maintenance
- Laboratories\*
- Printing and graphic arts
- Construction
- Lawn and garden care
- Gas stations
- Nail salons
- Hardware stores
- Furniture and wood refinishing

\*Dangerous waste does not include biohazard or human waste. Discarded pharmaceuticals could be dangerous waste.





# It's good to be small.

Any facility with dangerous waste is called a “dangerous waste generator.” Generators are separated into three groups, based on how much waste they generate: small, medium, or large quantity generator.

You are responsible for knowing what and how much dangerous waste you generate.

Less dangerous waste at your facility means less liability and risk. And the less waste you generate, the less you spend on disposal.

Small quantity generators have fewer regulations to follow:

- No accumulation time limit.
- No Pollution Prevention Planning Fee.
- No Dangerous Waste Annual Report (unless you have an active RCRA Site ID number).
- May transport their own waste.



# How do I know if I have dangerous waste?



If your business uses hazardous products, you probably have dangerous waste.

If your business discards these types of materials, you probably have dangerous waste.

## **Wastes like:**

- Solvents
- Paints and thinners
- Adhesives
- Oil
- Antifreeze
- Disinfectants
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Light bulbs
- Batteries
- Shop towels
- And many more

## **Products labeled:**

DANGER  
FLAMMABLE  
WARNING  
POISON  
CAUTION

# What are small quantity generators required to do?

1

**Designate  
your waste**

2

**Handle  
and store  
dangerous  
waste  
safely**

3

**Recycle or  
dispose of  
dangerous  
waste  
properly**

There are just a few requirements small quantity generators must follow:

**1) Designate Waste**

Determine if you have dangerous waste.

**2) Handle Waste Safely**

Manage dangerous waste in a way that does not pose risks to human health or the environment.

**3) Recycle or Dispose of Waste Safely**

Properly dispose of dangerous waste using a permitted waste facility or legitimate recycler. Contact your county's solid waste department or call 1-800-RECYCLE for local options.

Learn more at [ecology.wa.gov/sqg](https://ecology.wa.gov/sqg)

# How much dangerous waste can I create per month?



**Per month  
of dangerous  
waste**



**Per month of  
highly toxic  
waste**

There are limits to how much waste you can create and keep on site. Small quantity generators can generate up to 220 pounds of dangerous waste per month and accumulate up to 2,200 pounds.

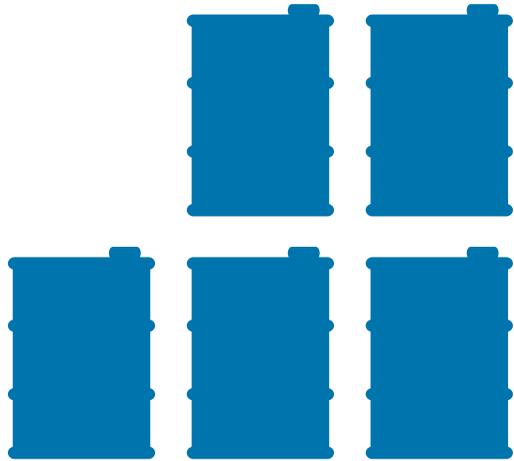
220 pounds is about half a 55-gallon drum of water.

Some types of waste are more dangerous than others and have lower limits. You can't have more than 2.2 pounds of these wastes. They include certain:

- Unused chemical products.
- Waste from manufacturing pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides.
- Waste that kills fish or other animals.
- Other highly toxic wastes.

# How many pounds can I keep on site?

Less than 2,200 lbs,  
which is about 5  
55-gallon drums



You need to know how much dangerous waste you generate every month and how much you accumulate. You don't have a time limit for accumulating waste as long as you have less than 2,200 pounds (or 2.2 pounds for certain highly toxic wastes).

Don't exceed these limits. If you do, you are no longer a small quantity generator and must follow more rules.

You can multiply the weight of one gallon times the total number of gallons. Or if you know the specific gravity of your waste, you can calculate it.

2,200 pounds is about five 55-gallon drums of water. If your waste's density is similar to water, you can estimate using 8.34 pounds per gallon.

# How can I get help?

We can help you understand the rules or find resources to reduce waste. Learn more from our video:

[ecology.wa.gov/sqg](http://ecology.wa.gov/sqg)

Call us today to get started.



Southwest Region  
360-407-6300

Northwest Region  
425-649-7000

Central Region  
509-575-2490

Eastern Region  
509-329-3400