



# Does your business produce hazardous waste?

## WHAT IS "HAZARDOUS WASTE"?

In Washington, a waste is "hazardous" if:

- It is *listed* (discarded products and sources; [WAC 173-303-080](#)),
- Meets *characteristics* (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity; [WAC 173-303-090](#)), or
- Meets *criteria* (environmental persistence or toxicity; [WAC 173-303-100](#))

Common materials that are hazardous waste:

- Paints, thinners, solvents, pesticides, or cleaning fluids
- Products with a warning label such as "flammable," "caustic," "danger," "hazardous," or "poison" or contain any hazard pictograms like those shown on the right



## HAZARDOUS WASTES REQUIRE SPECIAL HANDLING

Hazardous wastes cannot be put in the dumpster, poured down the drain or evaporated. They cannot be taken to the transfer station or municipal landfill. They must be transported by a licensed waste service provider unless your business is a small quantity generator (see below). Regardless of generator status, all businesses MUST:

- Identify and designate all hazardous wastes and how much is generated each month
- Keep wastes stored in containers that are in good condition with proper hazard labels
- Assure proper disposal, treatment and/or recycling of their hazardous waste
- Comply with regulations, no matter how little hazardous waste they generate
- Follow all required procedures for your generator status (small, medium, or large quantity generator)

## LESS WASTE= FEWER REGULATIONS

Small quantity generators are exempt from most state and federal regulations. To be exempt, they must stay within the legal generation and accumulation limits and they must manage and dispose of their waste in a way that does not pose a threat to human health or the environment.

A Small Quantity Generator, or SQG, is a business that:

- Creates less than 220 pounds (about 27 gallons) per month of hazardous waste and
- Stores less than 2,200 pounds (about five 55-gallon drums) of hazardous waste and
- Creates and stores less than 2.2 pounds (about a quart) of *acutely hazardous waste* per month



## REGULATED GENERATORS

Businesses that produce larger amounts of hazardous waste must comply with extensive regulations and periodic reporting. While Ecology provides compliance assistance to all generators, medium and large quantity generators are also subject to regulatory inspections from Ecology. Small quantity generators can receive non-regulatory pollution prevention assistance through the Local Source Partnership. Contact the City of Port Angeles's Pollution Prevention Specialist for more information.



# DESIGNATING HAZARDOUS WASTE



"Waste designation" is the process of determining if a certain waste is hazardous and selecting the applicable dangerous waste codes. Designation often involves identifying the chemical ingredients or contaminants in the waste. This helps ensure that the waste is properly labeled and handled. Washington's Department of Ecology provides guidance for designating waste according to the dangerous waste regulations ([LINK](#)).

To find out more information about the hazardous chemicals a product may contain, refer to the product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Chemical suppliers and manufacturers are required to have SDS for all their products. They can often be found with the product or on the manufacturer's website.

A "waste profile" describes the chemical ingredients and the dangerous waste numbers assigned to the waste. Firms that transport, broker, reclaim or dispose of hazardous waste need a waste profile so that they can manage the waste safely and legally. Most private companies and solid waste landfills require a profile or other identification before accepting potentially hazardous wastes. Businesses should retain receipts for waste removal as well as any waste profiles produced.

## WASTE TESTING

Hazardous waste may need to be tested if the waste is unknown or may contain other hazardous materials. For example, used oil is often field-tested to detect chlorinated solvents. Containerized wastes, such as aerosol cans, do not need to be tested and are designated according to the hazardous chemicals listed on their SDS. Most waste handlers will profile a waste and can arrange to have it tested, if necessary. Use the following guidelines to help waste service providers develop an accurate waste profile as well as save your business money:

- Explain how the waste was created
- Provide the chemical ingredients from container labels and SDS sheets
- List anything that was mixed with the material including water, solvents or potential contaminants
- Only run tests on chemicals that have a possibility of being in your sample
- Do not run tests on containerized products that are no longer being used or have expired. Look up the product's SDS to find hazardous characteristics

Though waste handlers will help a business develop a waste profile, the business is ultimately responsible for the proper disposal of the waste it produces.

~Example~

A shop mixes concentrated cleaner with water and uses the solution to clean oily, corroded auto parts. The shop's waste management firm suggests testing the solution for solvents and heavy metals. In the preceding year the shop had eliminated all solvents from its cleaning process. The shop shows the material safety data sheets to the waste management firm and explains its "no solvent" policy. The firm agrees that solvent testing is unnecessary. Because parts are corroded before cleaning, it is a good idea to test for heavy metals.



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### other resources:

- [Dept. of Ecology Hazardous Waste Program](#)
- [Clallam County Hazardous Waste Program](#)
- [Dept. of Ecology Dangerous Waste Regulations](#)
- [City of Port Angeles Pollution Prevention Program](#)