



Does your business produce **HAZARDOUS** waste?

WHAT IS "HAZARDOUS WASTE"?

A material is "waste" if:

- The business doesn't want it
- It's old or outdated.
- It can no longer be used.
- It spilled.

In Washington, a waste is "hazardous" if:

- It's 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 generate hazardous waste:

- Paints, thinners, solvents, pesticides, or cleaning fluids
- Materials that burn or itch on contact with skin
- Materials that dissolve metal, wood, paper, or clothing
- Products with a warning label such as "flammable," "caustic," "danger," "hazardous," or "poison."

HAZARDOUS WASTES REQUIRE SPECIAL HANDLING

Hazardous wastes cannot be put in the dumpster, poured down the drain or evaporated into the air. They cannot be taken to the transfer station or municipal landfill. The amount of waste the business produces or stores determines "generator status" and which regulations apply. Visit the Department of Ecology Hazardous Waste Service Directory ([LINK](#)) to find vendors who can properly manage your waste.

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 warning labels
- Assure proper disposal, treatment and/or recycling of their hazardous waste
- Prevent threats to human health or the environment
- Comply with regulations, no matter how little hazardous waste they generate
- Know which rules apply based on "generator status" which refers to whether your business is a Small, Medium, or Large Quantity Generator.

SQG: LESS = EASY

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

Small quantity generators are exempt from most of the state and federal regulations. To gain that exemption, 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.



REGULATED GENERATORS (MEDIUM & LARGE WASTE GENERATORS)

Businesses that produce larger amounts of hazardous waste must comply with extensive regulations compared to SQGs. Ecology provides pollution prevention and compliance assistance to all generators, and fully regulates medium and large quantity generators. The requirements for regulated generators are spelled out in the Washington dangerous waste regulations ([WAC 173-303](#)). These regulations address how hazardous waste must be stored, handled, transported and disposed. Contact the Department of Ecology for assistance at 425-649-7000.



IDENTIFYING HAZARDOUS WASTE



"Waste designation" is the process of deciding 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](#)). Dangerous waste identification numbers are listed in WACs 173-303-090, 173-303-104, and 173-303-9903 - 9904. These dangerous waste numbers are codes that correspond to the hazardous properties in the waste. For example, D008 means the waste contains lead; WT02 means the waste is toxic; D002

means the waste is corrosive.

Before the products become waste, information about the hazardous chemicals they contain is listed on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Contact suppliers or the product manufacturer for MSDS or SDS copies or find more ideas at Ecology's hazardous waste website under "[Identify and Designate Waste](#)."

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.

WASTE TESTING

You may want to test your waste to see if your waste is hazardous. For example, used oil is often field-tested to detect for chlorinated solvents. Many wastes, such as aerosol cans, are typically designated as hazardous without testing. Most waste handlers will profile a waste and can arrange to have it tested, if necessary. Doing a little research ahead of time may save money on testing. Here are some tips:

- Explain how the waste was created.
- Provide the chemical ingredients from container labels, material safety data sheets (available from the supplier or manufacturer), or by contacting the manufacturer.
- List anything that was mixed with the material, like water or solvents.
- List any contaminants that were picked up in the process, like oil or metal shavings.
- Don't run tests for substances that couldn't possibly be there or for known substances.
- Don't run tests on outdated (past expiration date) chemicals. These are known from the label and material safety data sheets.
- Do run tests for hazardous substances that could be present, but are uncertain.

It's important to remember that after the waste profile is completed, the business (generator) signs it, not the waste handler. Because the business is ultimately responsible for the proper disposal of the waste it produces, an accurate profile is important.

~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.

NEED HELP?



Jason Hart
Pollution Prevention Specialist
jhart@cityofpa.us
360-417-4693



Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503
360-407-6300

WWW •

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