

# COMMERCIAL PRINTING



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## Thurston County Business Pollution Prevention Program

 360-867-2664

 TDD: 360-867-2603

## The Problem

Commercial printing operations can generate a wide variety of hazardous wastes, including spent photographic chemicals, ink, solvents, contaminated shop towels, and wastes from equipment cleaning. Additional wastes or unused chemicals such as fountain solution, activators, adhesives, or even lubricating oils may also be classified as hazardous.

These wastes may be flammable (petroleum-based solvents), toxic (ink, photographic fixer, fountain solution), or reactive (plate developers with cyanide). Some inks and solvents contain chlorinated compounds or heavy metals, which are particularly harmful since they do not readily break down and may persist in the environment.

Small changes  
make a **BIG**   
difference!

## REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Businesses that are considered small quantity waste generators (SQGs) of hazardous waste are regulated by the Thurston County Sanitary Code which requires that all hazardous waste produced by SQGs be properly disposed or recycled. Additionally, all hazardous materials must be stored in such a manner as to prevent spills from entering the environment. Specifically, SQGs are businesses that:

1. Generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month
2. Generate less than 2.2 pounds of extremely hazardous waste per month
3. Store no more than 2,000 pounds of hazardous waste at any given time.

## GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING HAZARDOUS WASTES

◆ **Contaminated Rags:** Cloth rags that are sent to a permitted industrial laundry service are not considered hazardous if they have absorbed only minimal amounts of ink and solvent from cleaning and are stored in a container labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes”. However, heavily saturated rags may be determined to be hazardous waste and may be refused by your cleaning service. Rags that are saturated with hazardous waste may not be disposed in the garbage and must be sent to a hazardous waste vendor. To prevent over-saturating rags with cleaning solvent, consider using dispenser pumps instead of pouring product from the jug.

◆ **Waste Inks:** Inks containing petroleum distillates or heavy metals must be managed as a hazardous waste. To reduce the amount of waste, consider recycling lighter colored inks back into dark inks or use water-based products.

◆ **Spent Solvent and Ink Sludge:** Spent solvent and ink sludge collected during cleaning processes must be disposed as hazardous waste. Waste solvents should never be disposed of through evaporation; this practice not only violates air emissions regulations, but also endangers employees and customers. Additionally, solvents should never be disposed of by pouring into waste rag collection bins.

◆ **Spent Photo Fixer:** Fixer is considered a hazardous waste because it contains high amounts of silver. Wastewater containing fixer must be treated to remove the silver before discharging to a sewer or sent to an approved vendor for disposal.

## DISPOSAL OPTIONS

When it is time to dispose of any hazardous waste there are two options businesses can choose to:

1. Dispose of the dangerous waste at Thurston County’s HazoHouse. OR
2. Hire a licensed vendor to manifest and dispose of the waste.

HazoHouse accepts dangerous waste from both households and businesses (for a fee). HazoHouse only accepts waste from businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of dangerous waste per month. Businesses are asked to call in advance to set up disposal appointments prior to arriving (360-860-2912). HazoHouse is located at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2420 Hogum Bay Rd NE Lacey, WA.

For additional information visit: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw/index.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw/index.html)

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