

DOES YOUR BUSINESS GENERATE A HAZARDOUS WASTE?



Pollution
Prevention
Assistance



Thurston County Business Pollution Prevention Program

☎ 360-867-2664

👂 TDD: 360-867-2603

Small changes
make a
BIG
difference!

Managing Hazardous Waste is Good Business

Hazardous wastes are common in small businesses as well as large. Even small quantities of improperly managed hazardous wastes can have major impacts on worker health and safety, environmental quality, property value, and legal liability.

Proper management of hazardous waste is wise from a business point of view. Business owners are legally and financially responsible for the proper handling and disposal of their hazardous wastes. Disposal of hazardous waste in the trash, down a drain, on the ground, or into surface water is prohibited by the Thurston County Nonpoint Source Pollution Ordinance. Violators are subject to enforcement actions including potential fines.

WHAT HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATIONS ARE YOUR BUSINESS SUBJECT TO?

To determine what regulations your business is subject to regarding hazardous waste handling requirements, you need to answer two questions:

1. Does your business generate hazardous waste?

A hazardous waste is a solid or liquid material that could pose a danger to human health, property, or the environment. A waste is considered hazardous if it is:

- ◆ Ignitable (with a flash point of less than 140 degrees F),
- ◆ Corrosive (with a pH below 2.0 or above 12.5),
- ◆ Reactive (explosives, unstable chemicals),
- ◆ Toxic (poisonous),
- ◆ Persistent (non-biodegradable, containing chlorine compounds), or
- ◆ Listed by the state's "dangerous waste" list, published by the Washington Department of Ecology

Reference the "Safety Data Sheets" (SDS) for your products to learn if they contain any of these hazardous characteristics or meet these criteria. Products not originally designated as hazardous may become contaminated during use to the point where they would then be designated as hazardous waste, such as wash water.

2. How much hazardous waste does your business generate?

Once you identify which of your wastes are hazardous, you need to monitor how much you produce monthly and how much you store at any given time. Your business is considered a small quantity generator (SQG) if:

- ◆ Generates less than 220 pounds (about 27 gallons or 100 kg) of hazardous waste per month
- ◆ Generates less than 2.2 pounds (1 kg) of extremely hazardous waste (very specific chemicals) per month
- ◆ Stores no more than 2,200 pounds (roughly five 55-gallon drums or 1000 kg) of waste at any time

If your business generates or stores more than any of the listed amounts of hazardous wastes above, then you must comply with the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations. For more information, call the Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6300, and ask for the Hazardous Waste/Toxics Reduction section. Small quantity generators can contact Thurston County Hazardous Waste Hotline for disposal guidance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, including how to set up a free on-site technical assistance visit:

- ◆ Call the Thurston County Hazardous Waste Hotline at 360-867-2664 / TDD 360-867-2603
- ◆ Email PHSSPollutionPrevention@co.thurston.wa.us
- ◆ Visit our website at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw/index.html

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