

Does my business generate hazardous waste?

I didn't realize I could be generating hazardous waste!

You're not alone! Many businesses, educational institutions and municipalities of all sizes generate hazardous waste on a regular basis but don't realize it. If hazardous wastes are **not** identified and managed according to state and federal regulations, the results could be employee injuries, environmental damage, and financial ruin for your business.

If your business is listed in the following table, you probably generate hazardous waste. To be absolutely sure, you can talk with a Waste Reduction Specialist with Clark County Environmental Services. Ask them if there is a hazardous waste fact sheet or booklet for your particular industry.

Common Hazardous Wastes

Business (or organization)	Acids/Bases	Cyanide Wastes	Dry Cleaning Wastes	Formaldehyde	Heavy Metals	Ignitable Wastes	Ink Sludge	Lead-acid Batteries	Pesticides	Preserving Agents	Reactives	Spent Solvents	Plating Wastes
Automotive Repair	√	√			√	√		√				√	
Building Cleaning and Maintenance	√											√	
Chemical Manufacturers	√	√			√	√					√	√	
Cleaning Agents and Cosmetics	√				√	√			√			√	
Construction	√					√						√	
Dry Cleaning			√									√	
Educational and Vocational Shops	√								√		√	√	
Electroplating	√	√			√	√					√	√	√
Equipment Repair	√					√						√	
Formulators	√	√			√	√			√		√	√	
Funeral Services				√						√		√	
Furniture/Wood Manufacturing and Refinishing						√						√	
Laboratories	√			√	√	√			√	√	√	√	
Motor Freight Terminals and RR Transportation	√	√			√	√		√				√	
Pesticide Application					√				√			√	
Photo-finishing				√	√							√	
Printing and Graphic Arts	√				√		√					√	√
Wood Preserving									√	√			

Even small amounts of hazardous waste are regulated!

All businesses must identify their hazardous wastes (regardless of how little they produce) and determine what they must do under the law. The more hazardous waste you generate, the more requirements you have to follow under the state's Dangerous Waste Regulations Chapter 173-303 WAC see

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/wac173303.html>.

True or False?

This section highlights some common misconceptions about what is and is not a waste. In general, a waste is any material you intend to discard or burn (unless it's a fuel).

- It's not my waste because I lease/rent the parts cleaner and cleaning compound. The company supplying the original material or the recycler who returns a clean product to me is responsible for the waste.

***FALSE.** The generator of a hazardous waste is the person whose actions or business operations cause the clean material to become contaminated and unusable for its intended purpose.*

- It's not my waste because someone else dumped it on my property or a previous owner or renter left the waste behind.

***FALSE.** If the waste is on your property, you are responsible for ensuring that it is properly handled and disposed of. You cannot neglect it and expect someone else to handle the problem.*

- It really isn't a waste because I recycle the material on my premises with my own recycling equipment.

***FALSE.** The material has been rendered unusable until recycling makes it usable again. Unless you are using a hard piped, closed loop process, you must determine if the waste is hazardous prior to recycling. If it is hazardous, then handle it according to the regulations.*

What do I need to do?

Determine whether any of your wastes have been designated as "hazardous" wastes. This [Generator Status Worksheet](#) will help you determine if your business is a hazardous waste generator subject to Washington's Dangerous Waste Regulations.