

Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclables

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Pollution Prevention (P2) includes the adoption of environmentally sound management practices that reduces or eliminates the hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant at the source and prevents its release to the environment prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal.

The ultimate goal of Pollution Prevention is the elimination of pollution at source.

Pollution prevention

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/02642.html>

You need to register with Alberta Environment and obtain a Personal Identification Number when you generate, transport, or receive hazardous waste. Forms at:

<http://environment.alberta.ca/02808.html>

If you manage hazardous wastes improperly, you could face a non-compliance penalty.

Hazardous Wastes and Hazardous Recyclables

As a business in Alberta, do you produce hazardous waste and hazardous recyclables, such as used oil, undrained used oil filters, used car batteries, leftover paint, spent solvents, corrosives and cleaning products?

When these substances are intended for final disposal they are called wastes. However, many can be managed as a resource for further beneficial use and then are known as recyclables.

Management of Hazardous Wastes/Recyclables

Hazardous industrial wastes or contaminated soils require management at specific facilities. On-site or off-site recycling, treatment or disposal options are available including out of the Province alternatives.

Persons responsible for hazardous waste should implement environmentally sound management practices in compliance with the Waste Control Regulation including:

- Registration with Alberta Environment to obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN), which applies to generators, carriers, and receivers of hazardous waste.
- Completion of a hazardous waste manifest (or a recycle docket when handling hazardous recyclables) to accompany waste moved off-site.
- Safe containment during transportation and storage,
- Recycling, treating or disposal of the waste at approved facilities.

Contacts for off-site treatment and disposal including the Swan Hills Treatment Centre are available at

<http://environment.alberta.ca/02994.html>

What are Hazardous Wastes?

Hazardous wastes are substances going for disposal, which – either in the short or the long-term – can be harmful to people, plants, animals, or the environment. Substances are defined as hazardous if they exhibit one or more of the following properties:

- toxicity,
- flammability,
- corrosivity, or
- reactivity

The presence of these characteristics in wastes or recyclables renders them “hazardous”. These wastes are defined in detail in the Waste Control Regulation

Storage of Waste

Hazardous wastes and recyclables must be stored in a place that allows for safe handling and is prepared for emergencies. The storage site must:

- Prevent access by unauthorized persons;
- Be posted as a hazardous waste/recyclables storage area as per WCR 11(2)(b);
- Have proper equipment to handle emergency situations;
- Have designated people responsible for the site and able to respond to emergency situations;
- Have proper secondary containment for liquids; and
- Be designed and maintained to ensure run-off cannot enter the secondary containment system.

Examples of Common Waste

Solvents

- Solvents can include cleaners, degreasers, paint strippers or can be found in paint. Follow basic safe work methods for all solvents, i.e.:
- Store flammables away from combustible materials;
- Keep small amounts in the work area;
- Keep larger amounts in a separate, fireproof storage area;
- Use the smallest amount of solvent that will get the job done;
- Keep solvent-soaked rags and waste solvent in closed containers;
- Eliminate the use of solvents by substituting to a non-hazard substance; and
- Wear proper personal protective equipment

Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclables

A list of Alberta's approved hazardous waste and hazardous recyclables facilities is available at <http://environment.alberta.ca/02807.html>

Guidance:

Alberta User Guide for Waste Managers and

Waste Management Information For Businesses that Manage Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclables
<http://environment.alberta.ca/02643.html>

Report a spill or environmental emergency to the

24 Hour Environmental Hotline 1 800 222 6514

Alberta Environment Regional Offices may assist you
<http://environment.alberta.ca/01549.html>

For a copy of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA), visit the Queen's Printer at www.qp.gov.ab.ca

Or call 310-0000 (toll-free across Alberta)

Waste Control Regulation
http://www.qp.alberta.ca/570.cfm?frm_isbn=9780779739332&search_by=link

Used Oil

- When collected, used oil, filters and plastic containers can be recycled and reprocessed into useful products instead of becoming an environmental threat.

View the Alberta Used Oil Management Association's website at <http://www.usedoilrecycling.com/en/province.aspx?prov=1>

Lead Acid Batteries

- Lead Acid batteries contain lead, a highly toxic heavy metal, and sulphuric acid, a corrosive. They are classified as hazardous and are required to be disposed of properly.

Contact the Recycle Info Line at 1-800-463-6326 or 780-427-6982 for battery recyclers.

Common Substance Requiring Special Handling

Glycol

- Although glycol is not classed as hazardous waste it should not go into the environment.
- Used to make antifreeze and de-icing solutions for cars, airplanes and boats, as well as solvents in the paint and plastics industries and as an ingredient in photographic developing solutions, hydraulic brake fluids and in inks used in stamp pads, ballpoint pens, and print shops.
- Look for less hazardous substitutes.
- Handle carefully.
- Clean up any discharges or spills at once.
- Store in secure area in a closed container.
- Recycle.

Purpose of Sweeps/Common Issues

In an effort to promote responsible management of hazardous wastes and recyclables Alberta Environment facilitates regular educational inspections. Alberta Environment inspectors describe relevant regulatory requirements and offer best management suggestions. Some common issues identified during these sweeps include:

- Inadequate secondary containment,
- Improper labeling,
- Incomplete inspection logs, and
- Insufficient protection from the weather.

Resources Available

Assistance is available from Alberta Environment Regional Offices at <http://environment.alberta.ca/01549.html>

or

Northern Region – Edmonton

#111, Twin Atria Building
4999-98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 2X3
Tel: 780-427-7617

Central Region – Red Deer

#304, Provincial Building
4920-51 Street
Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 6K8
Tel: 403-340-7052

Southern Region – Calgary

#303, Deerfoot Square Building
2938-11 Street NE
Calgary, Alberta, T2E 7L7
Tel: 403-297-7880

Alberta Used Oil Management Association for used lube oil, filters, and plastic containers
<http://www.usedoilrecycling.com/en>

Recycle Info Line toll free at 1-800-463-6326 or 780-427-6982