



## Where do I start?

Reviewing a product's label or safety data sheet can provide information on a product's hazardous characteristics. The Globally Harmonized System's pictograms displayed on product labels and safety data sheets are also helpful in determining if a product or substance is considered to be hazardous waste.

## What else should be considered?

A waste may become a hazardous waste due to the process that generated it or other materials that may have come in contact with the waste. For example, a rag or wipe is not hazardous on its own; however, when used with a solvent for cleaning or degreasing or to clean up a hazardous material, the rag becomes a hazardous waste.



## Compliance Tips

- Make a determination regarding every waste generated. It is every business' responsibility to correctly identify both hazardous wastes and nonhazardous wastes and manage them properly. Document all waste determinations.
- Safety data sheets are helpful to identify characteristics of products that may make them hazardous wastes.
- Know your products and how you use or manufacture them to help you make a determination; this is making a determination based on process knowledge.
- Lab testing may be needed to make a determination when unknowns or mixtures are involved, or the presence of very small amounts of toxic materials in the parts per million range, could make the waste hazardous.
- If possible, consider product substitution to reduce or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes.



Questions or need assistance?

Call 919-707-8200 or go to:

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/hw>.

# A GUIDE TO Recognizing Hazardous Waste



DIVISION OF  
WASTE MANAGEMENT  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
SECTION



### What is waste?

Waste is any material, solid, liquid, or contained gas,

that is discarded, abandoned, or no longer going to be used for its intended purpose. Waste can be the by-product of a manufacturing process, cleaning operation, expired goods, or even recycled goods depending on the material and manner of recycling.

### What is Hazardous Waste?

Materials that are ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and/or toxic, or specifically listed by law are hazardous wastes when they can no longer be used for their intended purpose.



- **Ignitable:** flashpoint less than 140°F
- **Corrosive:** pH less than or equal to 2.0 or greater than or equal to 12.5
- **Reactive:** explosive, unstable, reacts violently with air or water, generates toxic vapor or gas
- **Toxic:** fails laboratory testing for one or more of forty specific toxic substances listed in 40 CFR 261.24
- **Listed:** Certain waste materials are specifically listed as hazardous waste in 40 CFR Subpart D (261.31 through 261.33).

*Lists include the F-, K-, U-, and P- lists. P-listed wastes are acute hazardous wastes.*

### Does my business generate hazardous waste?

Many wastes can be further categorized as hazardous wastes – wastes that cannot be discarded in the trash. Many businesses have the potential to generate hazardous wastes, depending on business type and the products used or produced. Hazardous wastes require special management, storage and disposal.

This often means documenting disposal and maintaining disposal records.

### What is universal waste?

Universal wastes are hazardous wastes that are so common that they can be found in nearly every business. Despite their widespread use, they are typically hazardous waste and prohibited from disposal a regular trash; but these wastes can be managed as universal waste if recycled. Mercury-containing lamps (ex.

fluorescent lamps), rechargeable batteries, and aerosol cans are typical universal wastes that businesses use.



## Common Hazardous Waste Sources

Waste Type	Common Sources	Related GHS Pictogram(s)
<b>Ignitable</b>	Alcohol-based cleaners Solvent-based paints Solvents Waste fuel Waste Ink	
<b>Corrosive</b>	Acids and bases Battery acid Cleaning products	
<b>Reactive</b>	Aerosol cans Two-part resins Peroxides	 
<b>Toxic</b>	Used Filters Materials with heavy metals, such as: Cadmium Lead Mercury Silver Pesticides Solvents Waste paints and coatings	  
<b>Listed</b>	Solvents Acetone Methyl Ethyl Ketone Toluene  Pharmaceuticals Nicotine Warfarin/Coumadin Plating wastes	 
<b>Universal Waste</b>	Mercury-Containing lamps Fluorescent lamps HID lamps Neon lamps, etc. Sealed lead-acid batteries Rechargeable batteries Aerosol cans Mercury-containing devices Thermostats	

\*This table provides examples of hazardous waste sources; it is not a complete list.