

Safe Tips for Hazardous Waste

Did you know, the U.S. didn't regulate the disposal of solid *or* hazardous waste until 1976? Regulations have improved a lot since then and luckily humans and the environment are now much better protected. Here are some tips to help you be compliant and have a safer work environment

Tips About Hazardous Waste

- Embrace EPA's new electronic manifest system. It's designed to help you reduce fees and improve tracking between generators, transporters and more.
- Consider implementing a secondary containment system for all containers used to store hazardous wastes. Although it's not required by regulation, spill pallets are a great way to save on spill clean-up expenses!
- Purge your inventory of expired chemicals. Under the new hazardous waste rule revision, a very small quantity generator (VSQG) or a small quantity generator (SQG) is permitted to maintain its existing generator category in the case of an event in which the VSQG or SQG generates a quantity of hazardous waste in a calendar month that would otherwise bump the generator into a more stringent generator regulatory category.
- Keep up-to-date inventories. Inventorying your waste generation monthly is a way to document your generator status and ensures you remain under the threshold you've selected for your facility.
- Set reminders on your work calendar to ensure hazardous waste gets shipped out within the given time limits.
- Check the integrity of your hazardous waste containers (This is especially important for small quantity generators, who can keep containers of hazardous waste on site for up to 180-days). Your storage arrangement should allow you to see all sides of your hazardous waste containers, to effectively check for leaks or spills. Look for signs of corrosion, bloating or expanding containers and cracking or splintering drums. Replace any compromised containers immediately.
- Post signs. Signage is obvious, but that's the point! Make it easy for employees to see waste accumulation areas with marked flooring and signage.
- Train all of your employees on the basics of hazardous waste. Hazardous waste training isn't required for very small quantity generators, but an *informed staff* is a *safe staff*.
- Keep your containers closed when not actively filling. Open drums or container lids are one of the most common sources of EPA fines and/or violations.
- Do you accumulate un-punctured, non-empty aerosol cans or paint and paint-related waste at your facility? How about waste antifreeze? Good news! Those recently became Universal Wastes in Ohio, meaning these no longer count toward your monthly hazardous waste generator status. Rules may vary by state, so check with your local EPA.

