



## Where do I start?

Product labels and Safety Data Sheets can help. Reviewing a product's label or safety data sheet can provide information on hazardous characteristics of the product. Especially helpful are the Globally Harmonized System's (GHS) pictograms displayed on product labels and Safety Data Sheets.

## What else should I consider?

Always consider the process. A waste may become a hazardous waste due to the process that generated the waste or other materials that may have come in contact with the waste. For example, a rag or wipe is not hazardous on its own, but when used to clean up hazardous solvents the rag becomes a hazardous waste.



## Compliance Tips

- Make a determination regarding every waste you generate. It is every business' responsibility to identify their hazardous wastes and manage them properly. As a best management practice, document all waste determinations.
- Safety Data Sheets can be very helpful in identifying hazardous characteristics of products that may make them hazardous wastes.
- Know your products and how you use 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 a substance, such as the presence of toxic materials in the parts per million range, could make the waste hazardous.
- Consider product substitution to reduce or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes where possible.



**Small Quantity Generator Program**  
(727) 464-7500

[www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste](http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste)

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A GUIDE TO

# Recognizing Hazardous Waste



**BUSINESS WASTE ASSESSMENTS**

**SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR PROGRAM**



## What is waste?

A waste is any material, solid, liquid, or contained gas, that is discarded, abandoned, or no longer of use 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.

## Does my business generate hazardous waste?

Many wastes can be further categorized as hazardous wastes – wastes that cannot just be discarded in the trash. Almost all businesses have the potential to generate hazardous wastes. Depending on your business type and the products you use or produce, you may generate wastes that must be disposed of as hazardous waste or universal waste.

Hazardous wastes require special management, storage and disposal. This often means documenting that the waste was disposed of according to regulatory requirements and maintaining disposal records.

## What is Hazardous Waste?

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



- **Ignitable:** flashpoint less than 140°; and or greater than 24% alcohol content
- **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 Part 261.24.
- **Listed:** 40 CFR Part 261.30 and adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through Chapter 62-730, FAC. Lists include the F-, K-, U-, and P- lists. P-listed wastes are acute hazardous wastes.

## 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 prohibited from disposal as regular trash; typically, these wastes are not considered hazardous waste if recycled. Mercury-containing lamps (ex. fluorescent lamps) and rechargeable batteries are typical universal wastes that businesses may produce.



Common Hazardous Waste Sources		
Waste Type	Common Sources	Related GHS Pictogram (s)
<b>Ignitable</b>	Alcohol-based cleaners Oil-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>	Filters Materials with heavy metals, such as: Cadmium Lead Mercury Silver Pesticides Oils Waste paints and coatings	  
<b>Listed</b>	Solvents Acetone Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) Toluene Pharmaceuticals Nicotine Warfarin/Coumadin Plating wastes	 
<b>Universal Waste</b>	Mercury-Containing lamps Fluorescent lamps HID lamps Neon lamps, etc. Lead-acid batteries Rechargeable batteries Mercury-containing devices Thermostats Relay switches, etc.	

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