

Alberta Storing and Disposing of Hazardous Waste and Recyclables

Hazardous Waste 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? Proper storage and containment of these materials is important to protect Alberta's air, land and water from contamination.

Storage Requirements

When storing hazardous waste or recyclables, containers must be:

- In good condition and not leaking
- Protected from the weather
- Compatible with the materials they are storing to avoid corrosion or chemical reactions that could result in fire
- Kept closed except when adding waste
- Not opened, handled or stored in ways that could cause leaks or ruptures
- Clearly marked and labelled to identify what is being stored

In addition, the following requirements and precautions should be taken:

- Clean up any spills immediately
- Do not store incompatible wastes together
- Have in place secondary containment for liquid hazardous waste/recyclables
- Use separate containers and appropriate barriers between different waste to prevent contact in the event of a release
- Inspect waste and recyclables in storage weekly and note any deterioration or corrosion in an inspection log

Recycling and Disposal

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-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 and Parks 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

Contact for off-site treatment and disposal, including the Swan Hills Treatment Centre (operated by SENA Solid Waste Holdings Inc.), are available on the document, *Alberta Facilities with an EPEA Approval to Manage Hazardous Waste/Hazardous Recyclables*, which can be found on the Alberta Environment and Parks site at:

- [Hazardous Waste Approvals](#)

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
- 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 Waste Control Regulation section 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
- Be designed and maintained to ensure run-off cannot enter the secondary containment system
- Be located away from sewer drains, manholes, drainage courses and standing water

Generally, an approval under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act is required to store hazardous waste/recyclables when:

- More than 10,000 kg is stored at one time
- Some or all of the hazardous waste or recyclables is produced by someone other than the owner of the facility
- Hazardous waste or recyclables are stored for longer than one year

If you are not sure whether a facility requires an approval, or you would like more information on obtaining an approval, contact the Alberta Environment and Parks regional office nearest you.

Examples of Common Waste

- Solvents
- Solvents can include cleaners, degreasers, paint strippers, or can be found in paint. Follow basic safety methods for all solvents.
- 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 with a non-hazard substance
- Wear proper personal protective equipment

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:
 - usedoilrecyclingab.com

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 solution for cars, airplanes and boats, as well as solvents in the paint and plastics industries and as an ingredient in 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 a 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 and Parks facilitates regular educational inspections. Department inspectors describe relevant regulatory requirements and offer best management suggestions. Some common issues identified during these sweeps include:

- Inadequate secondary containment
- Improper labelling
- Incomplete inspection logs
- Insufficient protection from the weather

For More Information

For more information on storing and disposing of hazardous waste and recyclables, contact the Alberta Environment and Parks regional office nearest you.

- aep.alberta