

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Can I dispose of hazardous waste in my dumpster?

NO! Businesses are prohibited from disposing of any hazardous waste in the normal waste stream. This means you CANNOT dispose of hazardous waste in your dumpster.

### My fluorescent lamps are “green” and are not a regulated hazardous or universal waste. Can I dispose of my “green” fluorescent lamps in my dumpster?

NO! In Florida, the incineration of fluorescent lamps is strictly prohibited. Since solid waste collected throughout Hillsborough County is disposed of by incineration, this means you CANNOT throw your fluorescent lamps in the dumpster.

### I do not believe my business wastes are hazardous. Can I dispose of all my nonhazardous commercial waste in my dumpster?

Most counties and municipalities require commercial customers to complete a profile for all wastes prior to adding them to the normal solid waste stream. Contact your utility for information on how to complete a waste profile and obtain approval for your nonhazardous commercial waste stream. All documentation related to waste determinations should be retained.



- ◆ Hillsborough County Solid Waste Svcs: 813-272-5680
- ◆ City of Tampa Solid Waste Dept: 813-348-1146
- ◆ City of Plant City Solid Waste Dept: 813-757-9208
- ◆ City of Temple Terrace Solid Waste Div: 813-506-6570

Para obtener una versión en español de este documento, visite nuestro sitio web en [www.epchc.org](http://www.epchc.org).

### Why it is important to comply with these regulations?

**Environment:** In Hillsborough County, our drinking water is 60% groundwater, 33% surface water, and 7% desalinated sea-water. In some areas, groundwater is less than five feet under the surface, and we have numerous lakes, creeks and rivers, most of which flow into Tampa Bay. This means chemicals which are dumped or otherwise discharged onto the ground can quickly contaminate the soil, groundwater, or nearby surface water. In the event a spill or other discharge to the environment does occur, assessment and remediation will be required, and this can be expensive.

**Safety:** Hazardous waste that has been improperly disposed of to either the ground or a dumpster can result in safety hazards. Fires, toxic vapors, explosions, and other serious hazards could impact your employees or even curious children investigating the contents of your dumpster. Some of these hazards can also endanger the safety of solid waste employees during compacting or other routine waste handling activities.

### What will happen if I do not comply with these regulations?

Failure to comply with applicable state and federal hazardous waste rules may result in an enforcement action. In accordance with Rule 403.727(3)(a), FS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection may seek recovery of investigative costs and penalties of up to \$50,000 for each day of continued violation of RCRA rules. Depending on the circumstances involved, the potential for criminal charges may also exist.



Environmental Protection Commission  
of Hillsborough County

813-627-2600  
[www.epchc.org](http://www.epchc.org)

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, INTEGRITY,  
TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**



# THE FACTS ABOUT HAZARDOUS WASTE



# MANAGING YOUR HAZARDOUS WASTE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

## Why am I receiving this Notice?

All counties in the State of Florida are required by the Legislature to establish and implement a small quantity generator (SQG) notification and verification program in accordance with Section 403.7234, Florida Statutes (FS). In Hillsborough County, this duty falls to the SQG Program within the Environmental Protection Commission. The goal of the SQG Program is to protect the environment by helping businesses understand and comply with the hazardous waste regulations.

Your business has been identified as a potential generator of hazardous waste. In accordance with the statutory requirements, the SQG Program must notify all generators producing less than 1,000-kg (2,200-lb) of hazardous waste in a single calendar month that there are certain legal responsibilities regarding proper waste management practices, including penalties for noncompliance.

The SQG Program is required to verify at least 20% of identified businesses by performing unannounced on-site surveys to evaluate waste management practices. During the on-site survey, the inspector will evaluate your waste streams and provide compliance assistance on the applicable management and disposal requirements if needed. Your inspector can assist you with understanding the hazardous waste and used oil rules and may provide suggestions on how to reduce your waste. If there are alleged violations noted during the inspection, in most cases, your business will be provided information on how to correct them without penalties.

## What is the purpose of the hazardous waste surcharge on my business tax receipt?

In recognizing the expense incurred by county governments to implement the SQG notification and verification program, the Legislature authorized counties to impose a SQG notification and verification surcharge of up to \$50 on the business or occupational license or renewal of any firm that is classified as a small quantity generator of hazardous wastes (403.7225(12), FS).

## What are hazardous wastes?



Federal hazardous waste regulations are found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations and are part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which gives the US Environmental Protection Agency the authority to control hazardous waste from the "cradle-to-grave." These regulations have been adopted by the State of Florida in Chapter 62-730, Florida Administrative Code, which has been adopted in Chapter 1-7, Rules of EPC.

Waste is defined as "hazardous" if it meets any of the following criteria:

1. It exhibits one or more of four specific characteristics (40 CFR 261, Subpart C):
  - ◆ **Ignitability** – It has a flashpoint < 140 °F
  - ◆ **Corrosivity** – It has a pH ≤2.0 or ≥12.5
  - ◆ **Reactivity** – It is explosive, extremely unstable, violently reacts with water, etc.
  - ◆ **Toxicity** – It contains one or more of 40 identified contaminants at levels that exceed the defined thresholds when analyzed using the TCLP Test
- OR -
2. It is a listed hazardous waste (40 CFR 261, Subpart D)
  - ◆ **F-listed** – wastes from non-specific sources
  - ◆ **K-listed** – wastes from specific sources
  - ◆ **U-listed/P-listed** – Discarded / off-specification commercial chemical products

## What are universal wastes?

Universal wastes are hazardous wastes that have less stringent regulatory requirements if they are recycled rather than discarded. Examples include:

- ◆ Fluorescent and other mercury containing lamps
- ◆ Mercury containing devices (e.g., thermostats)
- ◆ Lithium, NiCad, and other hazardous batteries
- ◆ Pesticides

## What are some examples of potentially hazardous wastes?

Paint thinners, lacquer thinners, waste paints, spent paint booth filters, spent parts washer fluid, spent blasting media, waste antifreeze, waste medications, used oil, spent corrosive cleaners, spent acetone and other solvents, waste inks, waste pesticides, drycleaning wastes, plating and electroplating wastes, photographic wastes, waste aerosols, cleanup debris, rags contaminated with characteristically toxic chemicals or listed hazardous wastes, and many others.



## If I generate hazardous waste at my business, how do I properly store and dispose of it?

Specific requirements depend on the amount of hazardous waste generated each month. In general, the more hazardous waste is generated, the more rules there are, but there are some basic requirements that apply to all generators of hazardous waste:

1. All persons who generate a solid waste must determine if that waste is hazardous.
2. All persons who generate a hazardous waste must manage it on-site in accordance with all applicable requirements (e.g., in a closed container, etc.).
3. All persons who generate a hazardous waste must dispose of it properly.
4. In Florida, all generators that dispose of their waste off-site must obtain and retain documentation of the disposal (e.g., shipping manifests).

**The most cost effective way to reduce disposal costs is to reduce the amount of hazardous waste you generate.**



For free compliance assistance, contact the SQG Program at 813-627-2600 or at [SQG@epchc.org](mailto:SQG@epchc.org).