

Hazardous Waste

UPDATE

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Hazardous Waste Update is the Thurston County Business Pollution Prevention Program newsletter for small quantity generators of hazardous waste, such as auto recyclers and auto shops, print shops, schools, painters, fire chiefs, dentists, pesticide applicators, and marinas.

To be taken off or added to this mailing list, call 360-754-4111 or e-mail donnetr@co.thurston.wa.us. We welcome your questions and suggestions!

The Business Pollution Prevention Program, run by Thurston County Public Health & Social Services, Environmental Health Division, works with businesses to reduce, safely store, and properly dispose of small quantities of hazardous waste. The county provides technical assistance, workshops, fact sheets, a disposal site, and Hazardous Waste Line at 360-786-5457. The TDD line is 360-754-2933.

Disposal Rates are Changing

On September 4, 2002 the Thurston County Board of Commissioners took testimony from the public on proposed rate changes for the small business hazardous waste disposal program. The Commissioners are expected to adopt the revised fees later this fall.

Hazardous waste disposal fees have not been adjusted since 1996, when the original program was set up. In many cases, prices have either gone down or stayed about the same. Fees will now be calculated based on weight (rather than gallons), which will make it easier to determine disposal costs.

New fees are being adopted because disposal costs paid by Thurston County vary based on regional and national waste recycling and disposal markets. For example, the collection program will now include fees for photographic wastes, various batteries, fluorescent lamps, and computer monitors (cathode ray tubes). Customers will now be able to purchase extra large "overpack" drums for instances when a 55-gallon drum may be corroded or bulging.

For a listing of the new prices, which are proposed to go into effect January 1, 2004, please call the county's Business Pollution Prevention Program at 360-786-5457 or visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm/.

Disposal rates are based on the actual disposal costs charged to Thurston County by its hazardous waste disposal firm. The labor and transportation costs related to sorting, packing, and shipping are paid out of funds already collected through garbage rates. Some wastes

Report from the Field: Nursery Campaign

In 2002, the Business Pollution Prevention team visited 27 nurseries and tree and turf farms throughout Thurston County. The focus of this single industry campaign was on the risks to public health by improper storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. At the time of the initial visit, almost all of the inspected businesses (85%) were in full compliance with the county's Nonpoint Source Pollution Ordinance, which requires proper storage, disposal, and spill plans for hazardous materials.

Nurseries tend to use up hazardous products; therefore, they produce very little pesticide



One-third of local nurseries visited practice integrated pest management to reduce use of pesticides.

waste, especially small nurseries. Some nurseries do not use any pesticides or have any hazardous materials on site.

The primary issues were secondary containment

and disposal. Secondary containment prevents pesticides and other hazardous materials from contaminating the environment in case the original container leaks, ruptures, or spills. At the start of the campaign, four nurseries were out of compliance for secondary containment. By the time of their follow-up visits, three nurseries had placed a total of 3000 gallons within secondary containment. The fourth site is pending corrective action.

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THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
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Report from the Field: Nursery Campaign

Several nurseries were storing large amounts of unused and unwanted products indefinitely. As a result of the campaign, four nurseries disposed of 234 pounds of hazardous waste through the county's facility at HazoHouse. These wastes included fluorescent tubes, paints, flammable liquids, and corrosive materials. Also as a result of the campaign, three nurseries registered to use HazoHouse. Many others received information and recommendations on the proper disposal of fluorescent light tubes and other universal wastes.

Nurseries were encouraged to take advantage of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) pesticide turn-in, which took place in June 2002, following the Thurston County visits. This program collected 1,596 pounds of unusable pesticides from eleven customers (not all of these customers were nurseries).

Best management practices (BMPs) are non-regulatory actions that businesses may employ. The Business Pollution Prevention team suggested 18 different BMPs for nurseries in five categories. The categories include recycling, waste disposal, waste reduction, chemical storage, and integrated pest management (IPM). Thirty-seven BMP recommendations were made during this campaign, notably to write and implement a spill plan (suggested 11 times) and to obtain spill kit materials and MSDS's (7 and 6 times, respectively). Many businesses were already doing these and other BMPs, for a total of 90 that were in practice. Eight of 25 nurseries (32%) reported they practice IPM.

The campaign staff concluded that nurseries are responsible users of pesticides and other hazardous materials, and that nursery owners and operators are very aware of the environment and pollution of surface and ground water. ♦

Waste Management: How Empty is "Empty"?

You are pouring your oil-based paint from the five-gallon bucket to the paint gun. The bucket drips, drips, drips. When the drips finally stop, you are done. Now you have an "empty" container that can't be recycled because of its chemical residue. Are you required to dispose of the container as a hazardous waste? Not if you have followed the rules described below, from the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations (WAC 173-303-160).

A container is empty when:

- All wastes have been taken out by common practices such as pouring, draining, scraping, pumping, and aspirating.
- For small containers (less than 110 gallons), when no more than one inch (2.5 centimeters) or 3 percent of container volume remains at the bottom of the container or inner liner.
- For large containers (greater than 110 gallons), when no more than 0.3 percent of the container's total capacity remains. For example, a 3000 gallon vac truck is empty when less than 9 gallons of material remain inside.
- A container that held compressed gas is empty when the pressure inside the container equals or nearly equals atmospheric pressure.
- The inner liner that prevented the container from contact with the chemical product inside has been removed.

**A 55-gallon
drum with one
inch of waste is
considered an
empty drum.**

If the container or inner liner held acutely hazardous waste, such as cyanide or certain pesticides, it must be rinsed at least three times with an appropriate cleaner or solvent.

- Enough cleaner or solvent must be used to thoroughly decontaminate the container.
- Empty containers that might be damaged by rinsing (i.e. cardboard) may be vacuum cleaned, struck three times with the open end of the container up (for example, with a hammer) to loosen particles, and vacuum cleaned again.
- Equipment used to vacuum clean residues should be cleaned to the same standards as the original empty container, for example by triple rinsing.
- Any rinsate or vacuumed residue that results from cleaning must, whenever possible, be used in a way that is consistent with its original purpose. For example, use pesticide rinse water to prepare the spray mixture for that particular pesticide. If not reused, the rinse water must be properly disposed as a hazardous waste. Rinsate from containers that held acutely hazardous waste that cannot be reused must also be handled as a hazardous waste.
- Do not dump rinse water on the ground, into storm drains, floor drains, sinks, or toilets.
- On-site disposal or burial of pesticide or acutely hazardous waste residues is prohibited.

When these conditions are met, containers and inner liners will not be considered hazardous waste.

Using the Internet

Here are a few of our favorite websites for small businesses with hazardous waste.

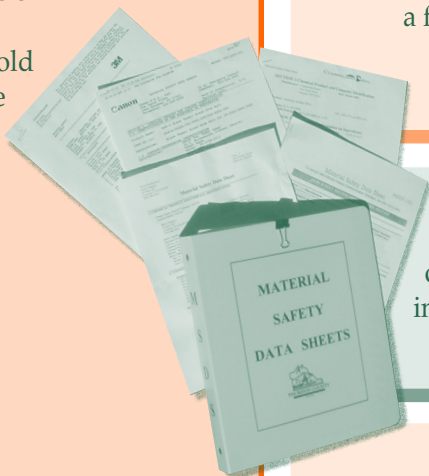


Before disposing of a container that held liquids, invert and drain until all free product is removed.

Storage and Disposal

Cover your empty containers so they will not be used for other wastes, and so they do not collect rain. Remove old labels, indicate what was last stored in the container, and label it "empty."

The Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center will take drums for scrap metal if they are crushed flat or have the top and bottom cut open. Squashed containers or bottomless/topless containers cannot hold liquids, and therefore are considered "empty." ♦



The **Washington Department of Ecology** Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program has several useful sites.

A guide to state regulations:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/reg_comp_guide/

A directory to hazardous waste services:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/hwtr/hwsd/default.htm>

Hazardous waste labels you can print out:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/hw_labels/index.html

TOXNET from the National Library of Medicine contains several databases on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, and related areas. Go to the Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB) to search for chemical/physical properties; synonyms and identifiers; chemical safety and handling; manufacturing/use information; health effects; medical treatment; etc. at <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/>

The Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center

<http://www.pprc.org> has extensive information to help businesses in the region learn about pollution prevention, and how it may help them become more efficient and compliant with environmental regulations.

To go right to their section on specific businesses, see <http://www.pprc.org/pprc/sbap/sbap.html>

King County sponsors IMEX, the Industrial Materials Exchange, a free service that matches clients that produce industrial wastes and surplus materials with those that need them: <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/imex>

SIRI (Safety Information Resources, Inc.) is a big collection of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) sponsored by the University of Vermont. It is a good place to start when searching for product information. This is but one of many sites that offer MSDS information. The link is <http://hazard.com/msds/index.php>

And of course, we must mention the **Thurston County Environmental Health** website, which has PDF versions of our 21 Business Pollution Prevention fact sheets, the Nonpoint Source Pollution Ordinance, and back issues of this newsletter at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehrp/hwaste.html> ♦

Thurston County Hazardous Waste Collection Site

Thurston County operates a collection site for businesses that produce small quantities of solvents, paints, acids, pesticides, and other hazardous waste.

It is located at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center (formerly the "Hawks Prairie Landfill").

Who Can Use It?

Businesses and institutions that produce less than 220 pounds (about 27 gallons) of hazardous waste per month can use the hazardous waste collection facility.

How Do I Sign Up?

One-time registration is required by calling 360-786-5457. It only takes a few minutes to register, including filling out a list of wastes for disposal. Once registered, just call to set up an appointment as often as needed.

What Does It Cost?

Call 360-786-5457 to find out more about hours, costs, eligibility, materials accepted, etc. The TDD line is 360-754-2933.

Quick Reference Numbers

Spills: Department of Ecology 360-407-6300

Air Pollution: ORCAA 360-586-1044

Sewer: LOTT Wastewater Alliance 360-664-2333 x108

Thurston County Hazardous Waste Hotline 360-786-5457

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Disposal Rates are Changing

are more expensive to dispose of because they cannot be neutralized, recycled, or rendered non-toxic (i.e. flammable solids or oxidizers). Some wastes, such as used oil and antifreeze, are low cost because they can be easily recycled.

The Thurston County small business hazardous waste collection program was created in response to local companies who said they wanted a convenient local drop-off site. Last year, 48 businesses delivered waste 81 times. Just over \$21,000 were collected in fees. Most customers are businesses or institutions that infrequently generate very small amounts of waste. Companies that produce larger amounts of waste usually hire private hazardous waste vendors to pick up their wastes.

See left for more information on how to use the Thurston County small business hazardous waste program. ♦



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