

Proper Accumulation Practices for Hazardous Waste

This guidance document for the proper accumulation of hazardous waste is provided as generic information only and is not the basis for permit decisions. This guidance may not be suitable for all sites. This document is intended solely as guidance, and does not contain any mandatory requirements. This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations, and is not determinative of any of the issues addressed. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter related to this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.

- Mark/label your containers

“Hazardous Waste” - When waste is put into a container, you must mark/label the container with the words “Hazardous Waste”. It is advisable to write a clear description of the contents on the label or drum it self. It is NOT acceptable to only have the manufacturers label on the drum.

“Start date” – Label your hazardous waste containers (that are not satellite receptacles) with a “start date” denoting when the first drop of waste was added.

- Keep all containers closed

With the exception of when waste is being added to a container, keep the container closed. Besides being a requirement, keeping hazardous waste containers closed, is a safety issue. The best way to evaluate your containers is by asking yourself: Could the waste spill out if the container were to tip? If it could, the container is not properly closed.

- Keep waste in sturdy, appropriate containers

The containers that you accumulate your hazardous waste in must be sturdy. They must also be made of an appropriate material so as not to react with the waste that you are placing into the container. (For example, it is inappropriate to store an acid in a steel container)

- Keep containers easily accessible

It is important to maintain enough space between and around containers so that they are easily accessed. Keeping an aisle open makes inspections and removal easier.

- Inspect your containers

Once a week inspect your containers for signs of stress, or damage that would lead to leaking or a release of hazardous waste.

- Keep incompatible wastes separate and on impermeable surfaces

Do not keep containers of incompatible wastes near each other. Ensure that they are labeled properly to avoid any accidental mixing. Do not keep containers of liquid hazardous waste on a surface that has a floor drain.

- Keep hazardous wastes indoors if at all possible

If you must keep hazardous waste outside, secure the area with a locked fence or putting it inside a locked shed. Make sure the surface is impermeable. Keep ignitable waste out of direct sunlight as well as away from the property line.

- Prepare your wastes for shipment

You can work directly with your transporter / waste hauler to prepare your hazardous waste for shipment to a hazardous waste treatment facility. They often supply proper containers, labels and placards to meet DOT requirements. However, it is your responsibility to ensure that any hazardous waste transported from your facility is managed per DOT specifications.

- Leaks and spills

Any leaking containers must be transferred to a non-leaking container immediately. If a spill or a leak occurs, the materials must be cleaned up and properly managed.

All spills should be immediately reported using the 24-hour toll free hotline (1-800-943-0003). However, if you discover a discharge through analysis of soil or water, use the [Notification For Hazardous Substance Discharge \(Non-Emergency Only\) \(Form 4400-225\)](#). Please include a summary of lab data with the form.