

HAZARDOUS WASTE – DO THE RIGHT THING

A short introduction for producers of hazardous waste in England

Many common products contain some hazardous materials. This can mean that when they are disposed of they are classed as hazardous waste, for which special rules apply. This note is to help you decide whether any waste you produce falls into that category and if so what you should do about it.

Doing the right thing with hazardous waste is very important: it protects human health and the environment, prevents criminal activity, and helps responsible waste managers to do their job. It is your responsibility to deal with your hazardous waste correctly and to ensure that you pass it on to a qualified and reputable waste manager for proper treatment.

This note points the way to information about the rules which apply in England. The position in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland may be slightly different – see below:

Scotland: [Scottish Environmental Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

Wales: [Natural Resources Wales \(NRW\)](#)

Northern Ireland : [Department of Environment \(DOE\) in Northern Ireland](#)

What is hazardous waste, and do you produce it?

- Examples of hazardous wastes include asbestos, chemicals, waste electrical equipment, batteries, waste oils, some soils, fluorescent tubes, some packaging waste, and some clinical or healthcare waste.
- If you are not sure, there is plenty of information available - see [Gov.uk - How to classify different types of waste](#) and the “*Need to know more?*” section below.
- While it stays your responsibility, your waste management contractor may also be able to help you (*see next section*).

If you do produce hazardous waste, do you know what you should do with it?

Here are some actions you should take depending on what type of hazardous waste you produce:

- **Know your legal responsibilities as a producer of hazardous waste** - see [Gov.uk - Managing your waste: An Overview](#) See also [Gov.uk - Hazardous Waste: An Overview](#)
- **Take steps to prevent or reduce your waste and consider recycling or recovery options if available** - see [Gov.uk - Guidance on applying the waste hierarchy to hazardous waste](#)
- **Register your premises with the Environment Agency if any of your premises produce 500kg or more of hazardous waste a year** - see [Gov.uk - Hazardous Waste Producer Registration](#)
- **Manage your hazardous waste properly, by segregating it from non-hazardous waste, labelling it, and storing the waste safely.** You are only allowed to store hazardous waste for up to 12 months - see [Gov.uk - Sorting and Storage of Hazardous Waste](#)
- **Special rules apply to healthcare waste** – see [Gov.uk - Management and Disposal of Healthcare Waste \(HTM 07-01\)](#)

- **Know how to move hazardous waste legally & safely**, by completing a consignment note, checking that the carrier has a valid registration, and checking that the site to which the waste is being taken is suitably authorised - see [Gov.uk - Finding a Registered Waste Carrier](#) and [Gov.uk - Hazardous Waste: Consignment Notes](#)
- **Check what records you should keep** - see [Gov.uk - Hazardous Waste: Producers and Holders](#)
- **Identify a legal and reputable waste management contractor** - see for example the [ESA Members List](#)

Need to know more? You can find further information about hazardous waste:

- The Environment Agency has produced detailed guidance for businesses handling significant amounts of hazardous waste and waste management operators: [Gov.uk - Hazardous Waste Technical Guidance \(WM2\)](#)
- Further information from the Environment Agency about the classification of hazardous wastes, mainly addressed to waste management companies, can be found on the websites of the Environmental Services Association (in the ESA members area): [Misclassification of Hazardous Waste \(ESA Members Only\)](#) and the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM): [Misclassification of Hazardous Waste \(CIWM\)](#)
- CIWM and ESA provide training on hazardous waste. See ESA and CIWM's joint training course '[An Introduction to Waste Legislation](#)' which covers the requirements on hazardous waste: