

POLLUTION PREVENTION FOR BUSINESSES



Labeling Requirements

All hazardous waste must be properly labeled.

Labeling is a common compliance issue and the easiest to avoid.

Good labeling will keep your employees safe and ensures your waste can be properly disposed. Waste containers for hazardous materials such as used oil, spent anti-freeze, fluorescent light tubes, and rags must be labeled. Labels can be downloaded and printed off the Department of Ecology website.

Labels on dangerous waste containers must clearly show:

- The words “dangerous waste” or “hazardous waste.”
- The risks of the waste, such as flammable, corrosive, toxic, or reactive.
- Accumulation start date.

Ignitable or Flammable

Ignitable wastes can create fires under certain conditions, are spontaneously combustible, or have a flash point at or less than 60°C (140°F). Examples include used solvents.

Corrosive

Corrosive wastes are acids or bases (pH less than or equal to 2, or greater than or equal to 12.5) and/or are capable of corroding metal containers such as storage tanks, drums, and barrels. Battery acid and many pool chemicals are common examples.

Reactive

Reactive wastes are unstable under normal conditions. They can cause explosions, undergo violent reactions, generate toxic fumes, gases, or vapors or explosive mixtures when heated, compressed, or mixed with water. Examples include lithium sulfur batteries and explosives.

Toxic

Toxic wastes are harmful or fatal when ingested or absorbed. When toxic wastes are landfilled, contaminated liquid may leach from the waste and pollute ground water. Toxicity is defined through a laboratory test called the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). The TCLP test helps identify wastes likely to leach contaminants that may be harmful to human health or the environment.



**SNOHOMISH
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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