

Construction Industry Fact Sheet

Hazardous Waste Management in BC

Hazardous Wastes most commonly generated from residential and commercial building construction activities may include leftover paints, adhesives, caulks, wood preservatives or other chemicals, oil, or older materials, such as solvents or pesticides, which have exceeded their shelf life.

You may not be aware that you generate hazardous wastes, but it is your responsibility to characterize your wastes and, if hazardous, to safely store them in proper containers with correct labels, and to dispose of them in compliance with the **Hazardous Waste Regulation** and the **BC Environmental Management Act**.

Managing Construction Hazardous Waste

The generator of hazardous waste also has the responsibility to prepare the proper shipping document (the "Manifest"), before tendering to a licensed hazardous waste transporter and an authorized waste receiver. Generators must also obtain a BC Generator Registration Number, depending on the quantity of waste produced or stored.

Please refer to the fact sheet: ***Generators of Hazardous Waste*** for a more comprehensive explanation of a generator's responsibilities.

There are penalties for non-compliance in the forms of fines and possible imprisonment. Please refer to ***Section 10, Division 1 of the Environmental Management Act*** for further details.

It is illegal in British Columbia to mix hazardous waste with non-hazardous waste in order to evade the regulations. Such a practice can be detrimental to solid waste collection systems and causes problems at landfills. It also poses a potential threat to workers who are unaware that the materials they are handling may contain hazardous waste.

As well, mixing non-hazardous waste with hazardous waste increases disposal costs due to the added weight and volume of the waste.

Please Note: Demolition wastes (e.g. insulation, light bulbs, painted wood and drywall, etc.) may contain hazardous materials, such as asbestos, PCBs, mercury and lead. All of these must be classified and disposed of properly as hazardous wastes.

If you are unsure if a particular waste is hazardous, you should retain the services of a qualified hazardous waste consultant, or contact a reputable hazardous waste management company for advice.

BCEIA

British Columbia
Environment Industry
Association



www.bceia.com

Hazardous Materials



Asbestos

Asbestos can be found in many building materials, and is not always readily apparent. Age of a building is not a reliable indicator for the presence of asbestos. Always have suspicious material tested, rather than making assumptions about its content.



PCBs

Polychlorinated biphenyls are mainly found in electrical equipment, such as fluorescent lamp ballasts, capacitors, transformers, switches and voltage regulators.



Mercury

Mercury can be present in thermostats, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury switches, batteries, thermometers and mercury vapour lamps.



Lead

Most buildings built before 1978 contain lead-based paint. Lead may also be found in pipes and soldered pipe joints, tank linings, electrical conduits, roofs and cornices.

Hazardous Waste Manifest

The Hazardous Waste Manifest System keeps track of:

- The date, type, characteristics, quantity and origin of hazardous wastes
- Identity of the transporter of the wastes
- Proof of delivery of waste to the designated waste management site

It also provides a signed record (Manifest copy) for all parties, confirming that the wastes have been received and how they are intended to be managed.

For Further Information:

BC Environment Industry Association

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Need More Information?

Contact the nearest regional office of the BC Ministry of Environment. A list of regional offices can be found at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/main/regions.html>

Or you can find your nearest Ministry of the Environment office by phone.

Victoria: (250) 387-6121

Vancouver: (604) 660-2421

Elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867

Outside BC: (604) 660-2421

There are links to the relevant legislation, as well as other helpful information on the BC Ministry of Environment's Hazardous Wastes Homepage, <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/hazwaste/index.htm>

For more specific information please see the other fact sheets in this series

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or visit Hazardous Waste BC at

<http://www.hazwastebc.com>