

BCEIA British Columbia Environment Industry Association

Government & Institutional Generators Fact Sheet Hazardous Waste Management in BC

Governmental Agencies and Institutions are not exempt from the **Hazardous Waste Regulation** and the **BC Environmental Management Act**. Facilities such as hospitals, extended-care facilities, schools (including public and private elementary, secondary, and post-secondary), museums, police and fire departments, correctional facilities, recreation centres and parks can all generate hazardous wastes.

Some hazardous wastes are commonly generated from vehicle and machinery maintenance associated with these facilities. Wastes may include waste oils and gasoline, filters, solvents, anti-freeze, lubricating fluids, lead-acid batteries, contaminated sorbents and oily rags.

Building and ground maintenance activities also generate hazardous wastes, some of which are waste paints, solvents, cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and other expired or waste chemicals, fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts, and sharps containers (for the disposal of used hypodermic syringes).

Generator	Examples of Hazardous Wastes Generated
Hospitals & Extended-care Facilities	Biomedical wastes, time-expired drugs, waste chemicals from labs and radioactive waste
Correctional Facilities	Biomedical wastes
Schools	Waste chemicals from science labs, waste solvents, inks, paints, adhesives, photo-finishing chemicals, etc. from art studios and classrooms
Museums	Spent, residual or expired Restoration and preservation chemicals
Recreation Centres	Spent, residual or expired Pool and spa chemicals
Parks Departments	Spent, residual or expired Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers
Police & Fire Departments	Biomedical wastes, contaminated sorbents from spill cleanups, confiscated or time-expired fire works, chemicals and drugs confiscated from clandestine labs
Municipal Public Works Yards	Spent, residual or expired Pesticides, household hazardous wastes from "drop-off" days and contaminated sorbents from spill cleanups

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Hazardous Waste Management

Companies that generate hazardous wastes have a responsibility to manage the wastes in compliance with the **Hazardous Waste Regulation** and the **BC Environmental Management Act**. The wastes must be properly characterized, stored, labeled, transported and disposed of.



The generator of hazardous wastes also has the responsibility to properly Manifest it before tendering it to a licensed waste transporter and an authorized waste receiver/processor. 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.

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.

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:

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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>