

Guidance on Hazardous Waste

Processing Issues Subcommittee
Science & Policy Work Group

Background

Many marijuana businesses may generate hazardous waste during normal operations and are required by local, state, and federal law to manage that waste appropriately. Under the law, the generator of hazardous waste is responsible for identifying, handling, and ensuring the correct disposal of the waste. Ignorance regarding the generation of hazardous waste in your business could result in significant penalties, fines, and legal repercussions. Some relevant, but limited, examples of regulated waste include:

- Plant material with sufficiently high concentrations of heavy metals contaminants
- Flammable liquids such as ethanol and isopropanol
- Water runoff that contains contaminants

What to do if your business generates hazardous waste

1. Educate yourself or hire a qualified consultant

Many resources and classes detailing how to identify, safely store, and properly dispose of hazardous waste are available, including:

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-haz-waste-reg-training>

2. Register your business with the EPA to obtain an EPA ID.

Generators of hazardous waste are required to register with the EPA. After registering, a business is issued an EPA ID number, which is required for manifesting hazardous waste for disposal with a hazardous waste disposal company. The process requires filling out a form and paying a \$120 fee.

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hwforms> - *Application for EPA ID#* section

3. Contract a licensed hazardous waste disposal company.

Proper disposal of hazardous waste must be performed by a licensed business. Use search terms such as 'hazardous waste disposal' to find a provider in your area. These providers, for a fee, will pick up and ensure proper disposal of your waste. They also often sell supplies such as drums, spill pallets, and the necessary labels required to store your waste.

Helpful Resources

Link to: [Guide to Generator Requirements, Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations \(CDPHE\)](#)

Questions about Hazardous Waste Requirements? Call CDPHE's Customer Technical Assistance for free help. 303-692-3320 or 888-569-1831 x3320 toll-free

Consider utilizing CDPHE's **Generator Assistance Program**: 303-692-3415 or 888-569-1831 x3415 toll-free. CDPHE will walk through your facility and perform a free assessment to help you achieve compliance. The walkthrough is not an inspection and CDPHE is there to educate and help your business.