



Guide to Dangerous Waste by Generator Category

About This Guide

This guide summarizes the most common requirements for each generator category under the [Dangerous Waste Regulations \(Chapter 173-303 WAC\)](#),¹ but is not an all-inclusive list. Always refer to the regulations for details or call a hazardous waste specialist at your [Ecology Regional Office](#).² Please refer to the [glossary of terms](#) (see page 9) for definitions of acronyms included.

To determine your [generator category](#),³ refer to section WAC 173-303-169 and the generator category definitions under WAC 173-303-040. The regulating agency for all generators is the Department of Ecology. Small quantity generators may also need to comply with local city and county regulations. If you are a health care facility as defined in WAC 173-303-555, please see our [Dangerous Waste Pharmaceuticals Guide](#)⁴ for additional information.

ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

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Table 1: Summary of large, medium, and small quantity generator regulations.

	Large Quantity Generator	Medium Quantity Generator	Small Quantity Generator
Waste Designation	Determine if waste is regulated dangerous waste.	Determine if waste is regulated dangerous waste.	Determine if waste is regulated dangerous waste.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-070	WAC 173-303-070	WAC 173-303-070

¹ app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-303

² ecology.wa.gov/contact.html

³ ecology.wa.gov/GeneratorCategory

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2004049.html>



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	Large Quantity Generator	Medium Quantity Generator	Small Quantity Generator
Waste Accumulation Amount	No limit.	Not to exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,600 pounds dangerous waste, 2.2 pounds of AHW or toxic EHW, or 220 pounds of cleanup residue from a spill of AHW or toxic EHW. 	Not to exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,200 pounds dangerous waste, 2.2 pounds of AHW or toxic EHW, or 220 pounds of cleanup residue from a spill of AHW or toxic EHW.
Regulations		WAC 173-303-172(4)	WAC 173-303-171(1)(c)
Monthly Waste Generation Amount	No limit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 220 and 2,200 pounds dangerous waste, Less than 2.2 pounds of AHW or toxic EHW, or Less than 220 pounds of cleanup residue from a spill of AHW or toxic EHW. 	Not to exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 220 pounds dangerous waste, 2.2 pounds of AHW or toxic EHW, or 220 pounds of cleanup residue from a spill of AHW or toxic EHW.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-040, see LQG definition . ⁵	WAC 173-303-040, see MQG definition . ⁵	WAC 173-303-040, see SQG definition . ⁵
Waste Accumulation Time Limit	90 calendar days (except SAA containers).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 180 calendar days (except SAA containers). For episodic waste, 60 calendar days from the event start date. 	No time limit, except for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 180 calendar days for special waste. For episodic waste, 60 calendar days from the event start date.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-200(2)	WAC 173-303-172(3–4)	WAC 173-303-073, -171, -173(3)

⁵ ecology.wa.gov/GeneratorCategory



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	Large Quantity Generator	Medium Quantity Generator	Small Quantity Generator
EPA/State ID Number	File Dangerous Waste Site ID Form to notify and obtain ID number.	File Dangerous Waste Site ID Form to notify and obtain ID number.	Not required, unless site manages dangerous waste under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative standards for episodic generation. • Conditional exclusion for special waste.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-060, -170	WAC 173-303-060, -170	WAC 173-303-060, -073, -170, -173
Container Management	<p>All dangerous waste containers must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In good condition • Non-leaking • Compatible with waste • Closed (except special circumstances in SAAs) • Separated from incompatibles <p>Additional CAA requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspected weekly • Stored within a secondary containment system • A minimum 30 inch aisle space between rows of containers <p>Note special requirements for containers accumulating ignitable, reactive, or incompatible waste.</p>	<p>All dangerous waste containers must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In good condition • Non-leaking • Compatible with waste • Closed (except special circumstances in SAAs) • Separated from incompatibles <p>Additional CAA requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspected weekly • Stored within a secondary containment system • A minimum 30 inch aisle space between rows of containers <p>Note special requirements for containers accumulating ignitable, reactive, or incompatible waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage waste in a way that does not pose a threat. • Other local regulations may apply.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-174, -200(3)	WAC 173-303-172(5), -174	WAC 173-303-170(2)(a)(i)



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	Large Quantity Generator	Medium Quantity Generator	Small Quantity Generator
What to Include When Labeling Waste During Accumulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The words “Hazardous Waste” or “Dangerous Waste.” Hazards associated with the waste. The accumulation start date (in CAAs only). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The words “Hazardous Waste” or “Dangerous Waste.” Hazards associated with the waste. The accumulation start date (in CAAs only). 	If managed as episodic waste or large quantity generator consolidation, see those requirements. Otherwise, not required.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-174, -200(7)	WAC 173-303-174, -172(9)	WAC 173-303-171(1)(e)(ix), -173(3)
SAA Limits	55 gallons dangerous waste or 1 quart AHW, or 2.2 pounds of solid AHW.	55 gallons dangerous waste or 1 quart AHW, or 2.2 pounds of solid AHW.	Does not apply.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-174	WAC 173-303-174	
Requirements for Accumulating Dangerous Waste in Tanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thorough assessment of tank safety. Proper design for tank’s waste. Proper installation. Secondary containment. Clear detection of any release. Safe operating procedures. Daily inspections. Immediate response to spills or leaks. Safe closure and post-closure care. Note special requirements for tanks that accumulate ignitable, reactive, or incompatible waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe operating procedures. Daily or weekly inspections (depending on the tank system and leak detection equipment). Safe closure and post-closure care. Note special requirements for tanks that accumulate ignitable, reactive, or incompatible waste.	Local regulations may apply.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-200(4)	WAC 173-303-172(6)	



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CAA and General Inspections	All inspections must be scheduled, performed, and documented. All deficiencies must be noted and corrected.	All inspections must be scheduled, performed, and documented. All deficiencies must be noted and corrected.	Not required.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-200(3)(d), -200(10)	WAC 173-303-172(5)(d), -172(13)	
Personnel Training	Training program required, including a written training plan.	Familiarize employees with proper waste handling and emergency procedures.	Not required.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-200(9)	WAC 173-303-172(12)(c)	
Preparedness and Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize fire, explosion, and release of dangerous waste. Maintain clear communication systems (internal and external) and fire suppression controls. Regularly test and maintain communication and control equipment. Train personnel on how to quickly access communications or alarm system. Maintain adequate aisle space for movement of emergency equipment. Work with local authorities to develop preparedness and prevention arrangements for your facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize fire, explosion, and release of dangerous waste. Maintain clear communication systems (internal and external) and fire suppression controls. Regularly test and maintain communication and control equipment. Train personnel on how to quickly access communications or alarm system. Maintain adequate aisle space for movement of emergency equipment. Work with local authorities to develop preparedness and prevention arrangements for your facility. 	Not required.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-201	WAC 173-303-172(11)	



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Contingency Plan and Emergency Procedures	Written contingency plan and quick reference guide required.	Post emergency information next to communication devices or in dangerous waste accumulation areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and number of emergency coordinator. • Location of fire extinguishers, spill equipment, and fire alarm. • Fire department telephone number, unless the facility has a direct alarm. 	Not required.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-201(8–9), (11)	WAC 173-303-172(12)	
Additional Reporting for Emergencies	Immediately report spill, fire, explosion, or release.	Immediately report spill, fire, explosion, or release.	Immediately report spills if threat to human health and the environment.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-145, -201(14)	WAC 173-303-145, -172(12)(d)(iii)	WAC 173-303-145
Disposal of Dangerous Waste	Ship to permitted dangerous waste TSDF or dangerous waste recycler. Uniform hazardous waste manifest required.	Ship to permitted dangerous waste TSDF or dangerous waste recycler. Uniform hazardous waste manifest required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat on-site at, or ship off-site to, permitted dangerous waste TSDF, permitted moderate risk waste facility, legitimate recycler, other permitted solid waste facility, or large quantity generator under the control of the same person. • For episodic waste, ship to permitted dangerous waste TSDF. Uniform hazardous waste manifest required.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-200(1)	WAC 173-303-172(1)	WAC 173-303-171(1)(e)



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	Large Quantity Generator	Medium Quantity Generator	Small Quantity Generator
Packaging, Labeling, Marking for Transport Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package, label and mark per USDOT regulations (49 CFR). Mark with dangerous waste numbers. WAC 173-303-190(1–3), (5–8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package, label and mark per USDOT regulations (49 CFR). Mark with dangerous waste numbers. WAC 173-303-190(1–3), (5–8)	Refer to USDOT regulations (49 CFR).
Placarding for Transport Regulations	Must offer the appropriate placard. WAC 173-303-190(4)	Must offer the appropriate placard. WAC 173-303-190(4)	Refer to USDOT regulations (49 CFR).
Manifest Regulations	Use for shipments off-site. Transporters of manifested waste must have an EPA/State ID number. WAC 173-303-180	Use for shipments off-site. Transporters of manifested waste must have an EPA/State ID number. WAC 173-303-180	Not required, except for shipments off-site of episodic dangerous waste. WAC 173-303-173(3)
Annual Reporting Regulations	File every year. WAC 173-303-220(1), -170(2)(b)(iii)	File every year. WAC 173-303-220(1), -170(2)(b)(ii), -173(4)	File every year if generator has an active EPA/State ID number. Only file Site ID form, unless you shipped episodic waste or special waste, in which case you must follow the appropriate instructions on the form. WAC 173-303-073, -(170)(2)(b)(i), -173(3)



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Exception Reporting	60 days if signed manifest is not returned from TSDF.	60 days if signed manifest is not returned from TSDF.	Not required.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-220(2) See Interim Compliance Assistance Policy for Manifest Exception and Discrepancy Reports ⁶	WAC 173-303-220(2) See Interim Compliance Assistance Policy for Manifest Exception and Discrepancy Reports ⁶	
Recordkeeping	Maintain the following for 5 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manifests • Annual reports • Waste designation records • Any other records required in -200 	Maintain the following for 5 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manifests • Annual reports • Waste designation records • Any other records required in -172 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste designation records: Maintain all data and records supporting knowledge-based determinations for 5 years. • Must keep records of an episodic generation event for 5 years. • Other records typically not required, but encouraged.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-210	WAC 173-303-210	WAC 173-303-210(3), -173(3)(j)
When to Develop Pollution Prevention Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 2,640 pounds of dangerous waste is generated annually or • Generator reports toxic releases under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 2,640 pounds of dangerous waste is generated annually or • Generator reports toxic releases under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. 	If generator reports toxic releases under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act.
Regulations	Chapter 173-307 WAC	Chapter 173-307 WAC	Chapter 173-307 WAC

⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2504023>



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Recycled, Reclaimed, and Recovered Waste	Recycled used oil, recycled car batteries, and other recycled wastes may be partially or conditionally exempt from regulation as dangerous waste.	Recycled used oil, recycled car batteries, and other recycled wastes may be partially or conditionally exempt from regulation as dangerous waste.	Recycled used oil, recycled used batteries, and other recycled wastes may be partially or conditionally exempt from regulation as dangerous waste.
Regulations	WAC 173-303-017, 071, 120, 500, 525	WAC 173-303-017, 071, 120, 500, 525	WAC 173-303-017, 071, 120, 500, 525
Universal Waste	Follow standards for universal waste management (batteries, mercury-containing equipment, and lamps).	Follow standards for universal waste management (batteries, mercury-containing equipment, and lamps).	Follow standards for universal waste management (batteries, mercury-containing equipment, and lamps).
Regulations	WAC 173-303-573	WAC 173-303-573	WAC 173-303-573



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Glossary of terms

Table 2: Acronyms and abbreviations used throughout this guide and their meaning.

Acronym or abbreviation	Meaning
AHW	Acutely hazardous waste
CAA	Central accumulation area
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EHW	Extremely hazardous waste
ID	Identification
LQG	Large quantity generator
MQG	Medium quantity generator
SAA	Satellite accumulation area
SQG	Small quantity generator
TSDF	Treatment, storage, and disposal facility
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation



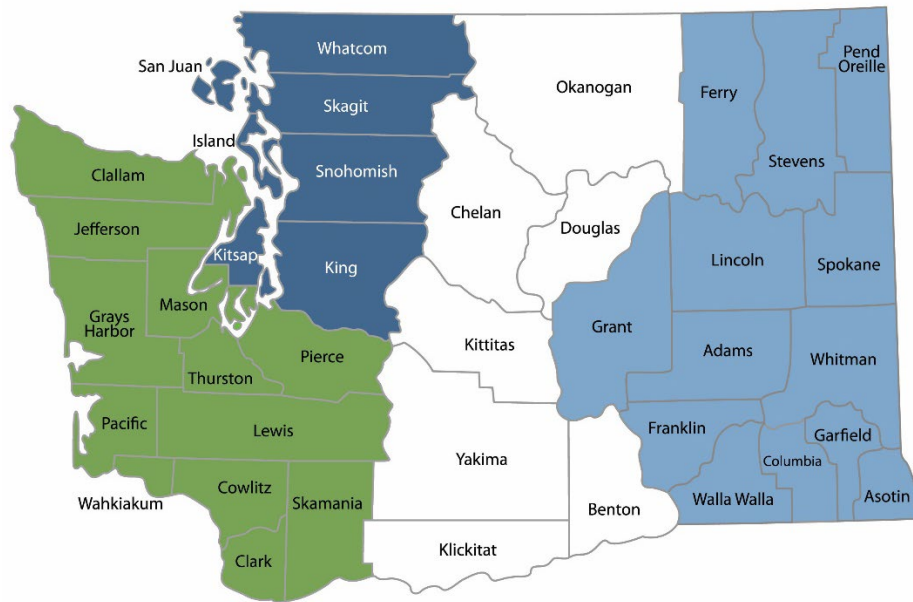
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Questions?

To speak to a dangerous waste specialist, contact your regional Ecology office.

Department of Ecology Regional Offices

Map of counties served



Southwest Region
360-407-6300

Northwest Region
206-594-0000

Central Region
509-575-2490

Eastern Region
509-329-3400

Northwest Regional Office, Shoreline: 206-594-0000

Counties: Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom

Southwest Regional Office, Lacey: 360-407-6300

Counties: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum

Central Regional Office, Union Gap: 509-575-2490

Counties: Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima

Eastern Regional Office, Spokane: 509-329-3400

Counties: Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman