



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## **How to Designate, Manage, and Dispose of Dangerous Waste in Police Evidence Rooms**

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# Publication and Contact Information

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## Department of Ecology's Regional Offices Map of Counties Served



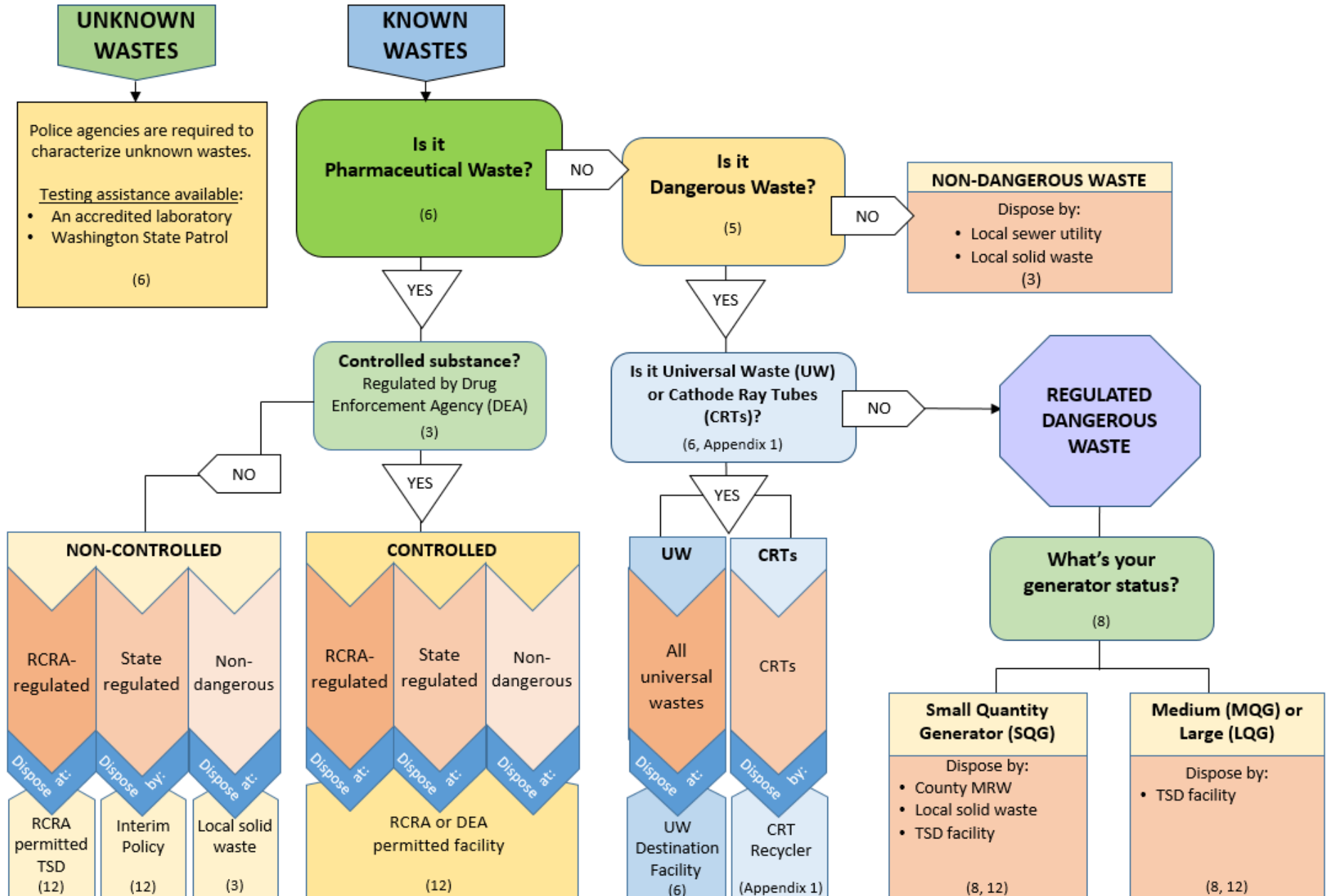
Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	3190 160th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 98008	425-649-7000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400

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# Waste Stream Flowchart for Police Evidence Disposal

Use this guide to find out how to correctly dispose of police evidence once it becomes waste.

(Pages in parentheses are where you can find more information)



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## **Introduction**

Dangerous waste is waste that's harmful to our health and environment. In Washington, we use the term "dangerous waste," while federal rules use the term "hazardous waste." Our rules are based on the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) with some added requirements. Dangerous waste includes more wastes than the federal definition of hazardous because Washington's rules are more protective than federal rules.

All businesses and facilities in Washington must handle and dispose of dangerous waste properly—police departments included. You are required to know:

- What types of dangerous waste you have.
- How much waste you generate each month.
- Your generator status.
- How to handle and dispose of waste under the [Dangerous Waste Regulations](#).<sup>1</sup>

The Dangerous Waste Regulations are in Title 173, Chapter 303 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). It's helpful to have a paper copy of the regulations. To order a free copy, call 360-407-6700 or email [hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov).

Evidence can include a wide variety of objects and substances, which makes determining the correct disposal method a challenge.

We can help you:

- Recognize common wastes found in police evidence rooms.
- Identify your generator status.
- Learn how to designate your dangerous waste.
- Learn how to safely handle, manage, and dispose of your dangerous waste.

Ecology conducts announced and unannounced inspections of police evidence rooms. We don't take enforcement action as a result of these visits unless our inspectors observe an imminent threat to human health or the environment.

Please contact your regional Ecology office if you have questions. We're here to help.

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<sup>1</sup> [app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303](http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303)

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## **Benefits of Including Disposal in Your Work**

We recognize that budget and staffing restraints often slow down dangerous waste disposal. But including it in your evidence-handling process saves time and risk in the long run.

When you have disposal built into your regular process, you:

- Keep workers safe.
- Keep dangerous materials from getting into our environment.
- Avoid theft.

## Jurisdiction of Waste Evidence

Table 1. Jurisdiction of waste evidence by agency

Agency	Item(s)	Contact
Department of Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dangerous waste</li> <li>• Chemical product waste</li> <li>• Flammable material waste</li> <li>• Waste poisonous substances</li> <li>• Business and household waste</li> <li>• Electronic waste</li> <li>• Universal waste</li> </ul>	Dangerous waste inspector at your regional Ecology office
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlled substances</li> </ul>	<a href="#">DEA Controlled Substance Schedules</a> <sup>1</sup>
Local health department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biohazardous waste</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Local health department</a> <sup>2</sup>
City or county governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid waste and recycling</li> </ul>	City or county solid waste management department
Bomb squad or fire department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explosives</li> </ul>	Bomb squad or local fire department
Department of Health (DOH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radioactive materials</li> </ul>	<a href="#">DOH radioactive waste disposal</a> <sup>3</sup>
Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticides</li> </ul>	<a href="#">WSDA Waste Pesticide Disposal Program</a> <sup>4</sup>
Local sewer utility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-dangerous liquids</li> </ul>	Local sewage treatment plant

### Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

DEA regulates all controlled substances like methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and most other narcotics. This includes [all controlled substances](#)<sup>1</sup> that also designate as dangerous waste.

### Ecology

While the manufacturing of illegal drugs themselves fall outside Ecology’s jurisdiction, the chemicals used to manufacture them do when they become waste:

<sup>1</sup> [deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules](http://deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules)

<sup>2</sup> [doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions](http://doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions)

<sup>3</sup> [doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Radiation/WasteManagement](http://doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Radiation/WasteManagement)

<sup>4</sup> [agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/wastepesticide.aspx](http://agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/wastepesticide.aspx)



- 
- Pharmaceuticals.
  - Chemical products (for example, products used to make methamphetamine).
  - Flammable liquids (like gasoline and lighter fluid).
  - Poisonous materials (like hydrochloric acid, lead acetate, and phosphine gas commonly found in meth labs).
  - Paints and coatings.
  - Industrial and motor oils.
  - Cleaning products.
  - Computers and other electronics.
  - Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs).
  - Universal wastes (like mercury switches, thermometers, grow lights, fluorescent bulbs, and batteries).

## **County health departments**

Local health departments regulate biohazardous materials. Depending on the area, solid waste may fall under the jurisdiction of your local city or county government.

These include:

- Blood-stained clothing or objects.
- Blood, hair, and other sources of DNA evidence.
- Rape kits.
- Plastic.
- Scrap metal, paper, and glass.

Contact your county for handling instructions and disposal options.

## **Local sewer utility**

Liquids that are not dangerous waste should still be handled with care. They cannot always be dumped down the drain. Contact your sewage treatment plant to find out what can be disposed through the sewer.

## **Bomb Squad and Fire Department**

A bomb squad or local fire department should handle all explosive materials in emergency situations.

## Designate Dangerous Waste

Designation is the process of determining if a waste is dangerous waste and what the hazards are. Through designation, you identify waste codes. These codes describe the type of waste and the risks it presents. Your waste may have multiple codes.

Watch our video, [Designate Your Waste—Is it Dangerous?](#)<sup>1</sup> to learn more about designation.

**Table 2. Common Types of Listed Waste Codes**

Listed Waste Codes	Description	Examples
<a href="#">P or U waste codes</a> <sup>2</sup>	Unused, discarded chemicals with only one active ingredient. “P” listed chemicals are the most toxic, and strictly regulated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many pesticides.</li> <li>• Formaldehyde.</li> <li>• Unrinsed containers.</li> <li>• Phosphine.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">F or K waste codes</a> <sup>3</sup>	Dangerous wastes from specific industries and activities (like metal plating or degreasing).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acetone.</li> <li>• Ethyl ether.</li> <li>• Pyridine.</li> </ul>

**Table 3. Common Types of Dangerous Waste Based on Characteristics**

Characteristics	Description	Examples
<b>Ignitable</b> Waste code: D001	Liquids with a flash point under 140°F.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spent solvents.</li> <li>• Lighter fluid.</li> <li>• Ethanol.</li> </ul>
<b>Corrosive</b> Waste code: D002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a pH of 2 or less, or 12.5 or higher.</li> <li>• Eats through .25 inches of steel or more a year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battery acid.</li> <li>• Ammonia.</li> <li>• Hydrochloric acid.</li> </ul>
<b>Reactive</b> Waste code: D003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quickly or violently changes when exposed to water, heat, pressure, or other materials.</li> <li>• Can produce toxic gases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyanide wastes.</li> <li>• Perchlorates.</li> <li>• Red phosphorous.</li> </ul>
<b>Toxic</b> Waste codes: D004-D043	Contain high concentrations of certain pesticides, organic chemicals, or heavy metals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discarded pesticides.</li> <li>• Formic acid.</li> <li>• Mercuric chloride.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1504011.html>

<sup>2</sup> [apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303-9903](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303-9903)

<sup>3</sup> [apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303-9904](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303-9904)

**Table 4. Common Types of State-Only Dangerous Waste**

State-Only Wastes	Description	Examples
<p><b>Toxic</b> Waste codes: WT01-WT02</p>	Contains chemicals toxic to fish and other animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mercury.</li> <li>THC.</li> <li>Pharmaceuticals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Persistent</b> Waste codes: WP01-WP03</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halogenated compounds (HOCs).</li> <li>Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).</li> <li>Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methylene chloride.</li> <li>1,1,1 trichloroethane.</li> </ul>

## Unknown Substances

If you take control of an unknown substance, you must identify it. Ask the following agencies for help:

- Find an [accredited lab](#)<sup>4</sup> to test your waste.
- [Washington State Patrol \(WSP\) Crime Lab](#)<sup>5</sup> (if it’s connected to a crime).

## Universal Waste

These dangerous wastes qualify as “[universal waste](#).”<sup>6</sup>

- Batteries.
- Lamps (lights, light bulbs, and light tubes).
- Mercury-containing materials (thermostats, thermometers, relays, and switches).

You can manage them under simpler rules than other dangerous wastes. Learn more in the publication [Universal Waste Rule: WAC 173-303-573](#).<sup>7</sup>

## Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal

Most pharmaceutical waste designates as dangerous. You may be able to use the Interim Pharmaceutical Waste Policy,<sup>8</sup> a less restrictive way to manage the waste. Learn more about the policy from our publications:

<sup>4</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/laboratorysearch>

<sup>5</sup> [wsp.wa.gov/crime/csrt.htm](https://wsp.wa.gov/crime/csrt.htm)

<sup>6</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/universalwaste](https://ecology.wa.gov/universalwaste)

<sup>7</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/98407.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/0304035.html>

- [Interim Pharmaceutical Waste Policy - Pharmaceutical Waste Management in Healthcare.](#)<sup>9</sup>
- [Interim Enforcement Policy Pharmaceutical Waste Fact Sheet - Profiling and Notification.](#)<sup>10</sup>

For updated information, visit [ecology.wa.gov](http://ecology.wa.gov) and search “pharmaceutical waste.”

## Computers and Electronic Waste

You may recycle all electronics, whether they are dangerous waste or not, under a special exclusion.

Learn more in the publication [Interim Enforcement Policy For Conditional Exclusion for Electronic Wastes.](#)<sup>11</sup>

Items that fall under the policy:

- Do not count toward your dangerous waste generation total.
- May be sent off site without a manifest.<sup>12</sup>
- Must be recycled, reclaimed, or reused by some type of salvage business.

Common types of electronic waste covered by this policy include:

- Personal computer equipment.
- Central processing units (CPUs).
- Printers.
- Keyboards.
- Cellular phones.

## Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)

CRTs have conditional regulations when recycled. They require special handling because of the amount of lead they contain (see [Appendix 1](#) for instructions).

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<sup>9</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0704024.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/0704026.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/0204017.html>

<sup>12</sup> Department of Transportation requirements for hazardous materials transport still applies.

## Know Your Generator Status

If your agency generates or takes custody of dangerous waste, you are a “[dangerous waste generator](#).”<sup>1</sup> Generators are separated into three categories, based on how much waste they generate or keep on site:

- Small quantity generators (SQG).
- Medium quantity generators (MQG).
- Large quantity generators (LQG).

Learn how to add up the amount of waste you have each month in [Counting Dangerous Waste Under the Dangerous Waste Regulations](#).<sup>2</sup>

**Table 5. What’s My Generator Status?**

Generator Status	Amount of Dangerous Waste
<p><b>Small Quantity Generator (SQG)</b></p>	<p><b>220-pound QEL waste (see explanation for Quantity Exclusion Limit)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generate less than 220 pounds per month.</li> <li>• Accumulate less than 2,200 pounds at any time.</li> </ul> <p><b>2.2-pound QEL waste</b> Generate or accumulate less than 2.2 pounds of waste with these codes: all P codes<sup>3</sup>, WT01, F020, F021, F022, F023, F026, F027</p>
<p><b>Medium Quantity Generator (MQG)</b></p>	<p><b>220-pound QEL waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generate between 220 and 2,200 pounds per month.</li> <li>• Accumulate less than 2,200 pounds at any time.</li> </ul> <p><b>2.2-pound QEL waste</b> If you have more than 2.2 pounds at any time, you are a large quantity generator. There is no MQG status for waste with a 2.2 QEL.</p>
<p><b>Large Quantity Generator (LQG)</b></p>	<p><b>220-pound QEL waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generate 2,200 or more pounds per month.</li> <li>• Accumulate more than 2,200 pounds at any time.</li> </ul> <p><b>2.2-pound QEL waste</b> Generate or accumulate 2.2 or more pounds of waste in these codes: all P codes<sup>3</sup>, WT01, F020, F021, F022, F023, F026, F027</p>

<sup>1</sup> ecology.wa.gov/generatorstatus

<sup>2</sup> https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/98414.html

<sup>3</sup> Residues, contaminated soil, water, or other debris from the cleanup of a spill of any chemical designated on the "P" discarded chemical products list have a 220-pound limit.

## **Quantity Exclusion Limit (QEL)**

The quantity exclusion limit is a weight threshold. Most dangerous wastes have a 220-pound QEL, but some are limited to 2.2 pounds because they are dangerous in small amounts. Find the waste codes that apply to your waste. This will help you determine its QEL.

See the [Guide for Dangerous Waste Generators in Washington](#)<sup>4</sup> for a quick list of requirements. Small quantity generators have the fewest rules to follow, while large quantity generators have the strictest.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/981252hwtr.html>

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## Training and Safe Handling

Dangerous waste has special handling requirements. Follow these steps to ensure safety for both workers and the environment.

### Training

Anyone who handles dangerous waste must know the potential hazards. Teach staff to handle waste safely. Medium and large quantity generators must provide dangerous waste training to staff every year. See [How to Develop a Personnel Training Plan](#).<sup>5</sup>

### Label Dangerous Waste

Labels on dangerous waste containers must clearly show:

- The words "Dangerous Waste" or "Hazardous Waste."
- Risk labels, such as "Flammable," "Corrosive," "Toxic," or "Reactive."
- Accumulation start date. Mark the date on the container the first time waste is added. This shows how long the waste has been on site.

### Storage and Containment

Proper storage ensures worker safety and reduces the risk of spills or accidents:

- Choose a suitable container.
- Inspect containers weekly for leaks or signs of deterioration.
- Clear enough aisle space—at least 30 inches—so employees can get out and emergency equipment can get in.
- Install an air venting system where narcotics are stored.
- Separate incompatible wastes (such as acids and bases).
- Store reactive and ignitable wastes according to the International Fire Code.

### Emergency Plans

Medium and large quantity generators must have [detailed emergency plans](#),<sup>6</sup> but it's a good idea for all facilities to have one. Post the following clearly and visibly:

- Important phone numbers (spills hotline, Ecology, fire department, your emergency coordinator).

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<sup>5</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1204017.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/9112n.html>

- Spill and fire plans.
- Locations of fire extinguishers, spill control material, and fire alarms.

Be sure to:

- Test and maintain emergency equipment regularly.
- Choose an emergency coordinator who is available at all times.
- Report spills to your Ecology regional office.

## **Related Resource**

- [Hydrogen Chloride Gas Generators Associated with Clandestine Drug Labs](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/98255.html)<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/98255.html>



## Disposing of Waste Evidence

Work with a reputable hazardous waste service provider to transport and dispose of dangerous waste. If you are a small quantity generator, you may transport your own waste to a permitted disposal facility.

**Table 6. Where to Dispose of Waste by Waste Type**

Waste Type	Item Examples	Disposal Facility
<b>Biohazardous waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood, DNA, hair.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Local health department</a>.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Computers, electronics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laptops, cellphones, CPUs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <a href="#">Interim Enforcement Policy</a>.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Explosives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fireworks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bomb squad or fire department.</li> </ul>
<b>Guns, firearms, weapons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knives, hand guns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal police policy.</li> </ul>
<b>Liquids from meth labs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acetone.</li> <li>Red phosphorous.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">RCRA-permitted disposal facility</a>.<sup>3</sup></li> <li><a href="#">County MRW facility</a><sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Non-dangerous liquids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glycerin.</li> <li>Acid waste, pH over 5.5.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact your sewage treatment plant or local sewer authority.</li> </ul>
<b>Pesticides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herbicides, fungicides.</li> <li>Rat poisons, pest controls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">WSDA waste pesticide program</a>.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Pharmaceuticals</b> Most <a href="#">pharmaceutical waste</a> <sup>6</sup> is dangerous waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expired medications.</li> <li>Partly-used medications.</li> <li>Illegal drugs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incinerate if it qualifies under <a href="#">Interim Pharmaceutical Waste Policy</a>.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>RCRA-permitted disposal facility with a DEA license.</li> </ul>
<b>Radioactive materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Radioactive medical or laboratory wastes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Department of Health</a>.<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Solid waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic, papers, scrap metal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call <a href="#">1-800-Recycle</a>.<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Universal waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Batteries, lamps, mercury switches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">RCRA-permitted disposal facility</a>.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Call <a href="#">1-800-Recycle</a>.<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> [doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions](http://doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions)

<sup>2</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/0204017.html>

<sup>3</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Dangerous-waste-guidance/Dispose-recycle-or-treat/Facilities-map](http://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Dangerous-waste-guidance/Dispose-recycle-or-treat/Facilities-map)

<sup>4</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/FindSiteHHW](http://ecology.wa.gov/FindSiteHHW)

<sup>5</sup> [agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/wastepesticide.aspx](http://agr.wa.gov/pestfert/pesticides/wastepesticide.aspx)

<sup>6</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/pharmawaste](http://ecology.wa.gov/pharmawaste)

<sup>7</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0704024.html>

<sup>8</sup> Call 1-800-Recycle or visit [1800recycle.wa.gov/info.html](http://1800recycle.wa.gov/info.html)

## **Drug Lab Cleanup**

[Washington State Patrol Crime Lab Division](#),<sup>9</sup> [Ecology Spills Program](#),<sup>10</sup> private contractors, and your local health department can assist you with large cleanups. Proper cleanup procedures are critical for protecting the environment and law enforcement personnel.

## **Related Resources**

- [Green Your Business \(Seattle Public Utilities Green Business Program\)](#)<sup>11</sup>
- [Find a Hazardous Waste Service Provider](#)<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> WSP Crime Lab offers 24-hour help to local law enforcement to process illegal drug labs: dismantling, identifying toxic chemicals and equipment, and evidence collection. [wsp.wa.gov/crime/csrt.htm](http://wsp.wa.gov/crime/csrt.htm)

<sup>10</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup](http://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup)

<sup>11</sup> [seattle.gov/Util/ForBusinesses/GreenYourBusiness](http://seattle.gov/Util/ForBusinesses/GreenYourBusiness)

<sup>12</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/dwcontractors](http://ecology.wa.gov/dwcontractors)

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Recycling Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)

#### What Are CRTs?

Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) are vacuum tubes inside older television sets and computer monitors. They are made of heavy, fragile, lead-containing glass. They contain high levels of lead and other heavy metals. The CRT also houses an electron gun, wiring, and electronic chip boards.

#### How to Handle CRTs

If handled incorrectly, CRTs can break, causing glass shards to explode and releasing other contaminants into the environment.

Because of the dangers they pose, you must label any container with a CRT inside clearly with:

- “Used Cathode Ray Tube(s) – contains leaded glass” OR “Leaded glass from TVs or computers.”  
AND
- “Do not mix with other glass.”

#### How to Recycle CRTs<sup>13</sup>

Recyclers must dismantle each piece of a CRT by hand. This is why it’s important to clearly label the box or container. They remove the TV or monitor, every piece of metal (copper, gold, iron, or steel), as well as the phosphorous from the glass. They can then recycle or reuse these pieces.

Find out where to recycle CRTs through [E-Cycle Washington](#).<sup>14</sup>

#### Newer TVs and monitors

Flat screens, LCDs, and plasma screens don’t contain CRTs. Dispose with your other electronic wastes.

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<sup>13</sup> CRTs are managed under WAC 173-303-071(3)(oo), found at [apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303-071](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303-071). They contain high levels of lead and other heavy metals. To encourage recycling of CRTs, they are excluded from Dangerous Waste Regulations as long as they are properly recycled.

<sup>14</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Electronics](http://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Electronics)