Focus on: What is a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility?



More information

Learn more about TSD facilities and permits at ecology.wa.gov/DWpermits.

For more about dangerous waste, visit ecology.wa.gov/DWBasics.

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A **treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facility** is a regulated site that manages **dangerous waste** by treating it, storing it, or preparing it for final disposal. A TSD facility must have a **dangerous waste permit** to operate in Washington.

Dangerous waste explained

Dangerous waste includes chemicals and products that can harm people or the environment if they are not managed properly. Many items used by businesses become dangerous waste when they are no longer used or are discarded. These types of waste can't go in the trash. Common types of dangerous waste include used solvents, old lab chemicals, leftover paint, pesticides, and waste oils.[1]

In Washington, the term "dangerous waste" is used instead of the federal term "hazardous waste." Washington's state law is more protective than the federal law. The definition of "dangerous waste" includes more types of waste than the federal definition.

Who needs a dangerous waste permit?

Only facilities with a dangerous waste permit (that is, permitted TSD facilities) may treat dangerous waste for other businesses or store dangerous waste on a long-term basis (Chapters 70A.300 RCW[2] and 173-303 WAC).[3] The permit provides the legal, enforceable conditions

[1] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/guidance-technical-assistance/dangerous-waste-guidance/common-dangerous-waste
[2] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.300
[3] https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-303

that the facility must follow. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorizes Ecology to issue and enforce TSD permits.

What is the dangerous waste permitting process?

Permit development is a critical step where Ecology thoroughly evaluates the unique features of each treatment, storage, and disposal facility. This includes a close review of the facility's operations and a careful assessment of any potential impacts on human health and the environment. The process includes:

- Assessment of how a TSD facility is built and operates.
- Analysis of how regulatory requirements apply to the TSD facility.
- Setting the enforceable **permit conditions** under which the TSD facility may operate to be protective of human health and the environment.
- Public process that allows review and an opportunity for comment.
- Issuance or reissuance of a final permit for a period of 10 years.

Permit conditions are requirements that the TSD facility must follow to:

- Treat, store, and dispose of dangerous waste in containers and tanks.
- Maintain process equipment and facilities to minimize environmental impacts.
- Monitor and report dangerous waste activities.
- Train facility employees on equipment, operations, and emergency response.
- Provide operational limits to minimize risk to human health and the environment.
- Plan and prepare for emergencies to prevent impacts to surrounding communities.
- Notify Ecology and update the permit when there is a change in the facility or operations.

How does Ecology enforce permit conditions?

Ecology inspectors visit privately owned TSD facilities every two years and federal facilities every year. If a facility does not follow the permit conditions, they may be subject to enforcement, fines, or even closure.



TSD facilities in Washington State
Stars indicate the locations of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities with dangerous waste permits. Washington has ten permitted TSD facilities. Seven are privately owned, and three are run by the federal government.