

# Hazardous Waste Determination Guidance

Follow these simple steps to determine if your unwanted material is regulated as hazardous waste:

- A.** If the material's original container included *radioactive* labeling, it is **radioactive waste**; if there is any known or measurable *radioactivity*, it is **radioactive waste**.
- B.** If there are any known or suspected *infectious agents* present in animal parts, tissues, fluids, carcasses, blood or blood products; if there are any known or suspected *infectious agents* present in waste containing discarded materials contaminated with excretion, exudate, or secretions from humans or animals; human specimens or tissues which have been fixed in formaldehyde or other fixatives; waste which is contaminated through contact with or having previously contained chemotherapeutic agents; any laboratory or research waste that is *potentially infectious to humans, plants, or animals*, or would pose a threat to the community or the environment (e.g., *organisms with potentially significant environmental impact*, or *transgenic or recombinant organisms*), it is **biohazardous waste**. **Ethidium Bromide waste is NOT biohazard waste.**



If it is biohazardous waste, and it is *sharps*; or it is generated or produced as a result of the *diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals*, or it is generated or produced as a result of *research pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals*, it is **biohazardous medical waste**.



- C.** It is **chemical hazardous waste** if it is a *hazardous chemical*, or includes a chemical component that is:

- *Inherently waste-like*; an *expired* or *unknown* chemical
- On a list of regulated *hazardous chemicals*. Check these lists to see if your unwanted material contains any regulated hazardous chemicals:
  - ✓ US EPA Title III List of Lists: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/list\\_of\\_lists.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/list_of_lists.pdf)
  - ✓ California List of Acutely Hazardous Chemicals, Toxics and Reactives: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5189.html>
- Exhibits one of four defined *hazardous waste characteristics*. Check the Hazardous Chemicals List reference to see if your unwanted material contains any listed hazardous waste.
  - ✓ Hazardous Chemicals List - Listing of 2,126 chemicals with hazardous waste characteristics, RCRA and CA waste code references: [Environmental Health & Safety : Waste Management, EPA's Defining Hazardous Waste](#)

**1. Ignitable**



- Flashpoint <140°F
- Capable of causing fire at standard temperature and pressure through friction, absorption of moisture, or spontaneous chemical changes
- Is an ignitable compressed gas
- Is an oxidizer

**2. Corrosive**



- Liquid with a pH <2 or >12.5
- Solid that has pH <2 or >12.5 when mixed with equal weight of water

### 3. **Reactive**



- Normally unstable and readily undergoes violent change
- Reacts violently with water
- Forms potentially explosive mixtures with water
- Forms toxic gases, vapors, or fumes when mixed with water
- Is a cyanide- or sulfide-bearing waste which, when exposed to pH conditions between 2 and 12.5, can generate toxic gases, vapors, or fumes
- Is capable of detonation or explosive decomposition if subjected to a strong initiating source or heated under confinement
- Is readily capable of detonation or reaction at standard temperature and pressure

### 4. **Toxic**



- Has an acute oral LD50 less than 2,500 mg/kg
- Has an acute dermal LD50 less than 4,300 mg/kg
- Has an acute inhalation LC50 less than 10,000 ppm as a gas or vapor
- Has an acute aquatic 96-hour LC50 less than 500 mg/L
- Has been shown through experience or testing to pose a hazard to human health or environment because of its carcinogenicity (carcinogen, mutagen, teratogen), acute toxicity, chronic toxicity, bioaccumulative properties, or persistence in the environment
  - Use 22 CCR 66260.200 calculation to make a determination: [22 CCR 66260.200 Toxicity Calculation - Example.xlsx](#)

D. Other types of waste are also regulated as hazardous waste due to their characteristics and potential effect on the environment. These wastes include:

#### ➤ **Universal Waste**

- Batteries
- Fluorescent lamps
- Thermostats with mercury switches



#### ➤ **Electronic Waste (E-Waste)**

- PC monitors
- Televisions
- LCD screens
- Cell phones
- Any equipment that contains a circuit board and rechargeable batteries



#### ➤ **Special Waste**

- Used oil
- Used oil filters
- Lead-acid batteries

