All businesses generate wastes.
Some generate hazardous wastes.

Every business in Idaho is required to track the volume of waste it generates, determine whether each waste is hazardous, and ensure all wastes are properly disposed of according to federal, state, and local requirements.

Disposal requirements differ depending on the type of waste and the amount generated.

Information in this brochure is designed to help Idaho businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous wastes do the following:

- ✓ Distinguish between waste and hazardous waste
- ✓ Determine the appropriate hazardous waste category applicable to your business
- ✓ Understand the requirements applicable to very small quantity generators (VSQGs)
- ✓ Use pollution prevention to reduce or eliminate hazardous wastes.

For More Information

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Twin Falls
650 Addison Ave. W,
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Web Resources

Hazardous Waste in Idaho
www.deq.idaho.gov/hazardous-waste

How to Determine Your Generator Status
www.deq.idaho.gov/hazardous-waste-generator-status

Pollution Prevention for Businesses
www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution-prevention-for-businesses

Very Small Quantity Generator
https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/categories-hazardous-waste-generators#very

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Hazardous Waste in Idaho

The Very Small Quantity Generator

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov

What is waste and how do I know if it's hazardous?

Waste is any material (solid, liquid, or contained gas) that is (1) discarded by being abandoned (disposed, burned, or incinerated), (2) recycled or reused, or (3) considered inherently waste-like.

Waste includes anything that needs to be reclaimed or reprocessed prior to reuse. Examples of waste are water poured down a drain, an empty pop can, and spent chemicals or solvents.

Some wastes can be reprocessed or recycled into useable products. Some can be treated prior to disposal to make them less hazardous. Some must simply be placed in a landfill.

Hazardous wastes are wastes that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Wastes that you have always handled may be classified as hazardous.

There are two types of hazardous waste:

Characteristic: Hazardous wastes that exhibit one or more of the characteristics of toxicity, ignitability (burns easily), corrosivity, or reactivity (explosive).

Listed: Hazardous wastes that appear on any of four specific lists issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These wastes may be solid, semisolid, or liquid. Some, such as certain pesticides that can be fatal to humans in small doses, are so dangerous they are called *acute hazardous wastes*.

How do I determine my hazardous waste generator status?

Your waste generator status is determined by the volume of waste generated and/or stored at your facility. Generators fall into three categories:

- Very small quantity generator (VSQG)
- Small quantity generator (SQG)
- Large quantity generator (LQG)

To determine your status, calculate how much hazardous waste you produce as follows:

1. Make a list of wastes you generate.
2. Identify whether the wastes are hazardous or nonhazardous. Some resources to help with this determination include:
   - Safety data sheets
   - Product suppliers
   - EPA and DEQ
   - Analytical testing labs
3. Add up the total weight of hazardous wastes generated each month. (You may need to convert volume into pounds by using the density of the specific liquid.)

You are a very small quantity generator if you generate:

- **220 pounds or less** of hazardous wastes per calendar month; or
- **2.2 pounds or less** of acute hazardous wastes per calendar month; or
- **220 pounds or less** of spill cleanup debris containing hazardous waste per calendar month.

As a VSQG, you are required to:

- *Keep track* of your waste by identifying all hazardous wastes generated and determining the total amount generated and stored on site each month. Be prepared to document that you are within the limits for this classification.
- *Limit on-site storage* of wastes to no more than 2,200 pounds or 2.2 pounds of acute hazardous waste at any time.
- *Properly dispose* of hazardous wastes. Ensure that all hazardous wastes are delivered to an approved municipal solid waste landfill; a permitted hazardous waste facility; a facility that beneficially uses, reuses, legitimately recycles, or reclaims the waste; or a LQG under the control of the same person as the VSQG.

  (Certain U.S. Department of Transportation requirements also may apply.)

Think pollution prevention!

The best way to manage hazardous wastes is to reduce or eliminate them. Try mapping out your process to determine the following:

What products do I purchase?

What process do I use each product for?

What waste is generated from each process?

Then consider:

Can I use a less hazardous raw material?

Can I modify the process to produce less waste?

Can a new technology help reduce waste?

Can I reuse the waste for another process?

Have I taken adequate precautions to avoid accidental generation of waste from spills or contaminated containers?