

UNIVERSAL WASTE

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Hello, and welcome to an overview of universal waste from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. My name is Phillip Nyhof. I am a hazardous waste specialist with the Montana DEQ, and I will be your guide through this presentation. The contact information for my office is listed at the end of the presentation. You are welcome to contact our team at any time with questions.

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During this presentation, we will discuss universal waste, what it is, who the regulations apply to, and how to properly manage universal waste. We also have resources and contact information for you to find out more about universal waste.

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Montana's Hazardous Waste Act allows specific hazardous wastes known as "universal wastes" to be managed under streamlined requirements that encourage the collection, recycling, or disposal of these wastes. Before the universal waste management standards were in place, all hazardous waste had to be managed under the full range of hazardous waste management standards.

Persons who generate or accumulate universal waste are called universal waste handlers and are subject to specific management standards depending on the type and quantity of universal waste accumulated. Universal waste management requirements are less stringent than those for hazardous waste. For complete universal waste rules, see the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 273, and the Administrative Rules of Montana Chapter 17, Subchapter 13.

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A universal waste is a hazardous waste that is produced by a variety of businesses and facilities, not just in traditional industrial settings. In Montana there are currently five types of waste considered to be universal wastes: batteries, pesticides, mercury-containing equipment, lamps, and aerosol cans.

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Items considered to be universal wastes are used batteries such as nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, and lithium-ion, recalled pesticides, used mercury-containing equipment including thermometers and thermostats, spent fluorescent and halide lamps, and full or empty aerosol cans.

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There are three categories that a facility or a person handling universal waste can fall under: handlers, transporters, and destination facilities. Households that generate universal wastes are not affected by the universal waste regulations.

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Specific regulations and requirements apply based on the quantity of universal waste accumulated at any time for universal waste handlers. Small quantity universal waste handlers never accumulate more than 11,000 pounds, or 5,000 kilograms, of universal waste at any time, while large quantity universal waste handlers exceed the accumulation of 11,000 pounds, or 5,000 kilograms, of universal waste at any time.

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The labeling requirements are identical for small and large quantity universal waste handlers. Each universal waste container must be marked, as appropriate with specific wording. For example, if you are labeling universal waste lamps, the container should be labeled with the words "Universal Waste Lamps," "Waste Lamps," or "Used Lamps."

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Small and large quantity universal waste handlers must be able to demonstrate the accumulation time for all universal wastes. Accumulation time begins the date the material became a waste or is received from off-site. For example, the date you place the first universal waste lamp in a container for accumulation is the accumulation start date that should be recorded. All subsequent universal waste lamps placed in the container are subject to the original accumulation start date. Universal waste may be stored on-site for up to one year from the time it was generated or received from off-site.

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Additional information is available online regarding universal waste management. A great place to start is the Montana DEQ website at deq.mt.gov where Universal Waste Regulations are summarized alongside links to additional guidance.

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Montana DEQ can be found on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. If you have more questions about universal waste, you are welcome to reach out to the hazardous waste program at any time by phone or email. We are always happy to answer your questions. Thank you for joining me for this presentation.