

Handling Hazardous waste as a business

If you're dealing with hazardous waste in your business, no matter the type, then it's important that you implement an effective waste management plan to tackle any problems that could occur and can cause unpleasant damage to your company. It's recommended that all companies avoid this, especially when the waste can be harmful to the environment as well as its employees.

It's often assumed that hazardous waste comes in gas form, which is far from the truth. Hazardous waste can be displayed in many forms, ranging from liquids, gases, solids and sludges, and this can often lead to groundwater and surface contamination. The British government have given strict guidance on how businesses should be handling this issue. Together, with Reconomy – providers of [skip hire](#) – this guide will ensure that you're managing these types wastes appropriately.

Categorising your waste

If you're producing or carrying hazardous waste as a business, the government expects that you have a 'duty of care, which means that you are required to handle and identify your waste responsibly.

When identifying your waste, you need to base them on the following two conditions: Is it harmful to the environment? or, is its harmful to the environment? There are many examples of hazardous waste, but the most common include the following:

- Batteries
- Solvents
- Chemicals
- Asbestos
- Oils
- Equipment that contains ozone depleting substances such as fridges
- Pesticides

If you identify any of the above, then it should be stored separately to the other waste that you produce within your organisation.

How to store your waste safely

Before you store your hazardous waste correctly, it's expressed that you do everything possible to reduce the waste that you produce. Although not exclusive to these types, waste, and hazardous waste can be categorised within four main sub-categories:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Demolition
- Industry

Once you've minimised the amount of waste that you produce, you should aim to store hazardous waste in a secure place, and all containers should stop waste from escaping, as a rule. When storing waste that is hazardous, it should be labelled accordingly, so that everyone on-site can identify it as such. In terms of contamination, waterproof covers should be used so that hazardous substances do not run off onto the floor or any other areas.

All types of hazardous waste need to be stored separately, and if it's in a liquid form, then a bund or barrier should be used in order to stop any spills or leakages. When these materials are being stored

onsite, employees should regularly check storage areas for damaged containers, or any other potential risks that may harm employees or the surrounding environment.

Lastly, be sure to maintain a classified inventory of your hazardous waste that is on your premises, and where it is being stored. This means if any incident does occur, the emergency services can deal with it effectively and safely.

Consignment Note

Once all the hazardous waste within your business has been accounted for and is ready to be collected, you will need to complete a consignment note. Make sure to do this before the waste is taken away.

This note is required for all hazardous waste in the following scenarios:

- Collections from businesses that are registered waste carriers.
- When another business has produced waste, movements from customer premises.
- Movements from one premises to another within the same organisation.

However, in the following scenarios, this note is not needed:

- The movement of domestic hazardous waste – other than asbestos.
- Waste has been imported and exported under international waste shipment controls that require a different movement note.

Detailing your hazardous waste

When it comes to filling in your consignment form correctly, so the approved hazardous waste collectors can take your waste away, you will need to provide details about the waste you want to dispose

Description of waste

You should provide a full description of each type of waste or hazardous waste that you want taken away.

Quantity of waste

You will need to provide the total weight in Kilo's of your hazardous waste, and for any liquids, they should be converted into the appropriate volumes – ensuring that they are reliable measurements.

Chemical components

You will need to identify the chemical and biological composition of your waste materials that you're disposing of, which include hazardous and non-hazardous items.

Physicality of your waste

You need to detail the form of the waste that you're disposing of: gas, liquid, solid, powder, sludge, or mixed.

Once you've completed the consignment form, this will need to be paid for. In England and Wales, the charge is £10 for a single collection. If this collection is a milk round (multiple collections), then this is reduced to £5 per note. Depending on applicability, the fee is set at £15 in Northern Ireland and Scotland.