

Waste Disposal – What a load of old rubbish

Is my waste hazardous?

Waste is generally categorised into two types – **non-hazardous**, such as general household waste e.g. food packaging, cardboard, empty cans etc. and **hazardous**, which could cause harm to humans or the environment.



Hazardous materials include:

- anything containing ozone depleting substances, e.g. fridges
- asbestos
- batteries
- batteries and discarded electrical equipment, such as TVs and computer monitors, fridges and freezers
- biological agents – e.g. used needles, animal waste, animal carcasses
- chemicals, eg brake fluid or print toner
- contaminated packaging
- detergents which contain hazardous substances
- fluorescent tubes
- hazardous waste containers
- non-edible oils e.g. car oil
- oil filters
- paints, inks and resins
- pesticides
- solvents

A full list of hazardous waste substances can be found at gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/waste along with lots of guidance about disposal of hazardous waste. The HSE also produce some really helpful resources at hse.gov.uk.

As a business you have a duty to ensure that the waste associated with your business causes no harm or damage.

In England, if your business:

- produces hazardous waste
- holds or stores hazardous waste
- has hazardous waste removed from its premises

You must:

- Classify your waste to check if it's hazardous.
- Separate and store hazardous waste safely.

- Use authorised businesses to collect, recycle or dispose of your hazardous waste – check that waste carriers are registered and waste sites have environmental permits.
- Fill in the parts of the consignment note that apply to you – keep one copy and give 2 copies to the carrier collecting your waste.
- Keep records (known as a 'register') for 3 years at the premises that produced or stored the waste.

(taken from gov.uk accessed 11.04.16)