



## Managing Special Waste

Special waste includes solid, “state only” dangerous waste that also meets the definition of :

- Category D toxic waste
- Solid corrosive waste
- Low-level persistent waste including:
  - Halogenated organic compounds (HOCs)
  - Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

The special waste category also includes waste generated from the salvaging, rebuilding, or discarding of transformers, capacitors, or bushings as listed in WAC 173-303-9904.

### Options for Managing Special Waste

Generators can manage special waste as fully-regulated dangerous waste or they can choose to follow the conditional exclusion requirements of WAC 173-303-073. To take advantage of the conditional exclusion, generators must dispose of their waste in hazardous waste or municipal solid waste landfills as specified in section -073, recycle the waste on or off site, or treat the waste in a way that is consistent with Ecology’s treatment by generator guidance. Special waste is not eligible for the conditional exclusion if it is treated in a manner that would require a dangerous waste permit, such as incineration or thermal treatment.

### Requirements for Managing Special Waste

#### General requirements for the management of special waste in WAC 173-303-073(2)

As with excluded dangerous waste in WAC 173-303-071, special waste is not exempt from the requirements of WAC 173-303-050, 173-303-145, and 173-303-960. These sections address cleanup authorities, spills, and discharges, and the special powers and authorities of Ecology. In addition, generators of special waste must still comply with the pollution prevention planning and fee requirements of Chapter 173-307 WAC and Chapter 173-305 WAC, the notification and annual reporting requirements of WAC 173-303-060, and the burning for energy recovery requirements of WAC 173-303-510. Ecology strongly recommends recycling over disposal.

#### MORE INFORMATION

Some of the most common special wastes generated in Washington State include:

- Aluminum cryolite waste from aluminum smelters.
- Sand blast grit containing copper, nickel, or benzene.
- Coal tar pitch.
- Sludges with low levels of metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

For more information about the special waste conditional exclusion, call your nearest Ecology regional office:

**Northwest Regional Office**  
425-649-7000

**Southwest Regional Office**  
360-407-6000

**Central Regional Office**  
509-575-2490

**Eastern Regional Office**  
509-329-3400

#### Special accommodations:

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

**Specific conditions of the special waste exclusion**

In addition to the preceding general requirements, WAC 173-303-073 contains specific management requirements for special waste. These requirements are:

- Generators must store special waste in a way that safeguards against releases to the environment. Special waste can be stored on site for up to 180 days. WAC 173-303-073(2)(a)
- Employees who could come into contact with special waste must be informed of the potential hazard. WAC 173-303-073(2)(d)
- Solid waste transfer stations can manage special waste only if the station operator arranges to segregate the waste to ensure that workers and the public are not unnecessarily exposed. WAC 173-303-073(2)(d)
- Shipments must be accompanied by a special waste bill of lading with identifying information. An example form is provided in WAC 173-303-9906.
- Generators of special waste and receiving facilities must both maintain records of the excluded waste transaction for five years. An invoice from the receiving facility can act as an adequate record for the generator. WAC 173-303-073(2)(f)
- Facilities receiving special waste for disposal must meet the requirements of Chapter 173-351 WAC and have an engineered liner. If disposed out of state, the receiving facilities must meet the requirements of 40 CFR Part 258 or Part 270. WAC 173-303-073(2)(g)

One benefit of the special waste exclusion is that waste shipments don't require a hazardous waste manifest or use of a dangerous waste hauler. Also, special waste can go to solid waste landfills within the state. Generators are encouraged to call their Ecology regional office for a list of Washington State solid waste landfills willing to accept special waste.