

# **Hazardous Waste Recognition Protocols - Safety Certification Guide**

## **HAZARDOUS WASTE CLASSIFICATION**

Hazardous waste is any material that poses substantial danger to human health or the environment. Classification includes ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity. Proper identification prevents accidents, protects workers, and ensures regulatory compliance.

### **IGNITABLE HAZARDOUS WASTE**

CHARACTERISTICS: Materials that can easily catch fire under standard conditions.

EXAMPLES: Paints, solvents, gasoline, certain cleaning fluids. IDENTIFICATION: Flash point below 140°F (60°C). STORAGE: Keep away from heat sources and ignition points.

### **CORROSIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE**

CHARACTERISTICS: Materials that can corrode metals or burn skin. EXAMPLES: Battery acid, drain cleaners, rust removers. IDENTIFICATION: pH less than 2 or greater than 12.5.

HANDLING: Use protective equipment and secondary containment.

### **REACTIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE**

CHARACTERISTICS: Materials that can explode or release toxic gases. EXAMPLES:

Peroxides, certain pesticides, unstable chemicals. IDENTIFICATION: Releases toxic gases when mixed with water. STORAGE: Keep separate from incompatible materials.

### **TOXIC HAZARDOUS WASTE**

CHARACTERISTICS: Materials harmful to human health even in small amounts.

EXAMPLES: Heavy metals, certain pesticides, pharmaceuticals. IDENTIFICATION:

Contains toxic constituents above regulatory levels. DISPOSAL: Requires specialized treatment facilities.

## **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE IDENTIFICATION**

BATTERIES: Lead-acid, lithium, nickel-cadmium. ELECTRONICS: Computers, TVs, cell phones. CHEMICALS: Paints, solvents, pesticides. HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS: Drain cleaners, oven cleaners. MEDICAL WASTE: Sharps, pharmaceuticals, chemicals.

## **SAFE HANDLING PROCEDURES**

1. WEAR PPE: Gloves, goggles, protective clothing. 2. WORK IN VENTILATED AREA: Ensure proper airflow. 3. USE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT: Prevent spills. 4. NEVER MIX CHEMICALS: Keep incompatible materials separate. 5. FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS: Read and understand warnings.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOLS**

SPILL RESPONSE: Contain, absorb, dispose properly. EXPOSURE: Flush with water, seek medical attention. FIRE: Use appropriate extinguishers, evacuate area. LEAK: Ventilate, contain, remove to safe area. REPORT: Document incident and notify authorities.

## **DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT OPTIONS**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES: Municipal collection centers. LICENSED TREATMENT FACILITIES: Professional disposal services. PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS: Manufacturer take-back programs. RECYCLING PROGRAMS: Battery and electronics recycling.