

Handling Hazardous Waste at Businesses

After a business is impacted by a flood event, damaged recyclables, food waste, and other solid waste can be thrown away in the trash. However, all hazardous materials need to be handled as hazardous waste. To protect public health and the environment, it is critical that businesses and their contractors, cleanup crews, and volunteers separate hazardous materials from trash and ensure their hazardous waste is transported to an appropriate destination.

Keep these items separate from trash:

- ▶ Dangerous products such as toxic chemicals, pesticides, explosives, fuel, acids, drain cleaner, floor stripper, solvents
- ▶ Oil, brake cleaner, antifreeze
- ▶ Oil-based paint, stain, varnish, paint thinner
- ▶ Lithium-ion batteries, lead-acid batteries
- ▶ Aerosol cans
- ▶ Mercury products such as fluorescent bulbs, thermostats, and thermometers

Other Tips:

- Do not put hazardous material down the drain, onto the ground, or into the environment. If an item is leaking, place it in a container.
- [Report](#) any spill of hazardous material greater than two gallons.
- To learn about determining whether waste is hazardous, [read the fact sheet](#).
- Be safe. Use gloves and eye protection. Handle chemicals with care, and do not mix chemicals.

**If you have questions, contact the VT Department of Environmental Conservation,
Hazardous Materials Program staff at 802-461-5929.**

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