



Division of Environmental Health

100 H Street - Suite 100 - Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: 707-445-6215 - Toll Free: 800-963-9241

Fax: 707-441-5699

envhealth@co.humboldt.ca.us

Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Handling and Disposal

Businesses in Humboldt County storing or handling certain quantities of hazardous materials, or generating any amount of hazardous waste, are regulated by the Division of Environmental Health (DEH). To be in compliance with the law, your business may be required to submit inventories for those materials, document emergency and training procedures, maintain hazardous waste disposal records, obtain an EPA generator ID number and be subject to site inspections.

What is a Hazardous Material?

A hazardous material is any material that poses a significant hazard to human health, safety or the environment, such as substances that are flammable, corrosive, reactive, oxidizing, combustible, toxic or radioactive. These include substances that require a Safety Data Sheet (SDS), which is information provided by the manufacturer about the chemical's properties, hazards, safe handling practices and other technical and scientific information. Hazardous materials commonly found in cannabis-related activity include, but are not limited to: fertilizers, soil amendments (such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium), rodenticides, herbicides, fungicides, pesticides and insecticides (including organic ones), as well as fuel used onsite for power generators and/or heating elements (e.g., diesel, gasoline, propane, kerosene, butane and oils). There may also be cleaners and sanitizers (such as household chemicals, solvents, bleach, alcohol or ammonia) and compressed gasses (including propane, oxygen, acetylene, nitrogen and carbon dioxide).

What is a Hazardous Waste?

Hazardous wastes are often the leftover or spent hazardous materials that require disposal. At cannabis cultivation facilities, for example, these will often include, but are not limited to: spent or leftover materials as listed above; the used oil, fuel and oil filters generated when equipment maintenance is done onsite; waste pesticides; waste solvents and laboratory wastes from any cannabis processing or quality assurance testing; sludge from solvent recovery tanks; used batteries; used absorbent from spills; and fluorescent bulbs or other bulbs with mercury.

Quantities that trigger regulation are based on the maximum quantity of materials onsite at any time:

- 55 gallons, 500 pounds or 200 cubic feet of hazardous materials for 30 days or more at any time in the course of a year.
- Any amount of hazardous waste (even one drop).
- Extremely hazardous substances.

Requirements: If your business has any of the elements above, contact DEH at 707-445-6215 to begin the process. Permits are required for underground or above-ground storage tank construction, removal, modification and operation.