

## Special Wastes/ Recycling

There are many wastes which can be recycled and speculatively accumulated at landfills, many of which do not pose an environmental risk. These may include items such as glass, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastic containers, etc... for these items it is recommended that record keeping include such things as where the recyclable is being sent, when it is sent and quantities.

Other special wastes which may be handled at Municipal, Non-Municipal, and Transfer Station Facilities may require more detailed information and record keeping due to the nature of the waste and environmental or health risks that may be associated with that waste type. Some of the wastes and the concerns associated with them are listed below. This is in no way complete or all inclusive, but should give you an idea of some of the things to consider when handling these commodities.

**Automotive batteries:** Batteries have the potential to freeze, crack, and release hazardous waste to the environment. Best management practices include storing batteries in a common area, storing on an impervious surface (or at least on pallets to allow for leak assessment) and protection from environmental exposure to the extent practical. Facilities handling used batteries should maintain records which detail when batteries are received and shipped off-site.

**Used motor oil:** Used motor oil is a regulated waste and should be handled in accordance with 40 CFR 279. General requirements include the fact that all containers must be clearly labeled with the words "Used Oil" and must be closed at all times, with the exception of when liquids are actively being added to or removed from the container. Oil must be burned in an approved space heater or be recycled appropriately.

**Other waste liquids:** All liquids should be maintained in structurally sound containers which are clearly labeled to identify the contents. The containers should be closed at all times, with the exception of when liquids are actively being added to or removed from the container. It is recommended that waste liquids not be combined – resultant mixtures may be very difficult to dispose. If oil is recycled or disposed off-site, records detailing shipment quantities/dates/etc. should be kept.

**Mercury switches:** Many vehicles contain mercury switches. If these switches are not removed prior to on-site crushing, mercury will be released to the environment. Idaho now participates in the National Mercury Vehicle Switch Removal Program to facilitate mercury recovery. By contacting DEQ, we can arrange to provide switch collection containers which may be exchanged for a cash rebate (\$1/switch)....

**Refrigerant:** The final person in the disposal chain is responsible for ensuring that the refrigerant is recovered from the equipment prior to final disposal. Refrigerant recovery has special record keeping requirements and is regulated in Idaho by EPA. For more info contact the Ozone Hotline at 800-296-1996 or CAA Enforcement Contact: EPA Region X; Mail Code OAQ-107; 1200 Sixth Ave.; Seattle, WA 98101

**Asbestos:** Mobile homes often contain asbestos-based materials. Appropriate handling and disposal is required. The EPA currently administers this program in Idaho. For more information, refer to Industrial Hygiene Resources (Idaho's EPA-endorsed contractor). 208-323-8287

**Chemical releases:** The metal piles in many of our facilities contain small motorized vehicles such as lawn mowers as well as metal gas cans and other metal liquid containers. The landfill employees need to be ensuring that these items do not have any liquid in them prior to acceptance. Any chemical spilled in excess of the established reportable quantity must be reported to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. For petroleum releases (gas, diesel, oil, hydraulic fluid, etc.), all spills greater than 25 gallons and any spill which can not be cleaned up within 24 hours (regardless of amount released) must be reported to DEQ. Essentially, stained soils should not be allowed – chemical releases must be addressed expeditiously and the resulting debris must be appropriately handled and disposed.

**Tires:** The numbers of tires at landfills is limited to fifteen hundred (1500) waste tires at any given time, unless you are permitted separately by the appropriate authority as a waste tire storage/ collection site. Vectors should be addressed when waste tires will be stored onsite. With the increase in West Nile Virus cases, mosquitoes have become a bigger concern in recent years. Extra precaution should be taken to prevent tires from collecting water and providing breeding grounds for the mosquitoes.

**Electronics:** Computer components contain lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium and other hazardous materials. The glass screens or cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in monitors can contain as much as 27% lead. By far, the least preferred option is to landfill electronic waste. Households are allowed to put these items in the trash for disposal in most municipal solid waste landfills. Businesses and other non-household generators disposing of e-waste must determine if the units would be characterized as hazardous, however, and, if so, must include the weight of these units in their monthly calculations of hazardous waste generation. Facilities that generate hazardous waste are regulated by state and federal rules that govern permitting, storage, transport and disposal.

**Wood:** IDAPA 58.01.06.03.f Fire prevention and control. Adequate provisions shall be made for controlling or managing fires at the site. Facilities wanting to stockpile large quantities of wood waste for future processing may want to inform the local fire department and get a letter of approval for proposed area. The volume of material and or frequency of processing for this type of waste should be addressed prior to implementation in order to minimize fire risk. This also helps in the inspection process to determine compliance.

**Composting:** The rules address processing facilities. These facilities have additional requirements for operation such as an approved odor management plan. See additional requirements in IDAPA 58.01.06.09

**Speculative Accumulation.** Stock piles of materials or recyclables to be processed for reuse or disposal when fifty percent (50%) of the material is not reused or disposed by the end of the following calendar year after the date of first receipt by the facility, and which may create a nuisance or public health impact.