

Regulatory consensus on health care waste issues

Where may this guidance be applied?

The hazardous waste programs of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington (Metro Counties) have reached consensus on the interpretations, guidance, and allowances discussed in this fact sheet. Generators of health care-related wastes may apply this guidance at any location in Minnesota.

This fact sheet incorporates changes to Minnesota requirements for pharmaceutical hazardous wastes. For a summary of the changing requirements, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw3-33, Changes in pharmaceutical waste management in Minnesota, at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw3-33.pdf>.

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| Abandoned pharmaceuticals | <p>Pharmaceuticals voluntarily surrendered or abandoned at schools, temporary shelters, and detention facilities are considered household pharmaceutical waste. Except for controlled substances, any facility staff may transport abandoned pharmaceuticals to a licensed household pharmaceutical collection receptacle at a pharmacy or a law enforcement agency. Only law enforcement officers may transport abandoned controlled substances.</p> <p>Schools, shelters, and detention facilities are not considered the generators of the abandoned pharmaceuticals they transport to a licensed household pharmaceutical collection receptacle. No Hazardous Waste Identification Number is needed for this activity. Do not report these wastes to the MPCA or Metro Counties.</p> <p>Check with the licensed household pharmaceutical collection receptacle host before bringing wastes to them. Some hosts may choose to not accept pharmaceuticals from some sites. Find a collection receptacle through the MPCA at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheets #w-hhw2-06, Collecting Pharmaceuticals from Households and Schools: Requirements for Law Enforcement Agencies, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hhw2-06.pdf; and #w-hhw2-07, Collecting Pharmaceuticals from Households and Long Term Care Facilities, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hhw2-07.pdf.</p> |
| Accumulation time | <p>Large quantity generators (LOGs) and Small quantity generators (SQGs) may accumulate any pharmaceutical hazardous wastes for up to one year from the date of generation. See Container labeling on page 5.</p> <p>Very small quantity generators may accumulate any pharmaceutical hazardous wastes indefinitely until they reach their maximum total hazardous waste accumulation. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-05, Accumulate hazardous waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-05.pdf.</p> <p>Any generator may accumulate any amount of pharmaceutical hazardous wastes it reasonably may manage through reverse distribution indefinitely. Pharmaceuticals accumulated for reverse distribution must meet all return criteria for the reverse distributor to which it will be sent.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw3-36b, Reverse distribution of pharmaceuticals, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw3-36b.pdf.</p> |
| Acute pharmaceutical wastes | <p>Pharmaceuticals listed on the P List are acute hazardous wastes unless excepted. See Epinephrine on page 8, Nicotine on page 13, Nitroglycerin on page 14, and Phentermine on page 15 for exceptions.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-02, P List of Acute Hazardous Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-02.pdf.</p> <p>Acute hazardous wastes may be comingled with other hazardous wastes in a common container if in solid form. If liquid, you must either ensure that the liquid will not mix with other wastes or count the entire mixture as an acute hazardous waste. Sites that generate one kilogram or more of acute hazardous waste in a month are LQGs.</p> <p>Stock and dispensing containers and packaging do not need to be managed as hazardous wastes after all the pharmaceutical has been removed by normal means. Triple-rinsing is no longer necessary. See Empty containers on page 8.</p> <p>Acute hazardous wastes do not require storage or disposal different than other hazardous wastes.</p> |

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| Aerosol inhalers | <p>Empty inhalers that meet hazardous waste empty container standards, including having no remaining pressure, are exempt from hazardous waste regulation. Recycle them if possible or manage as an industrial solid waste. See Empty containers on page 8.</p> <p>Non-empty inhalers are hazardous wastes unless you evaluate them as non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-00.pdf.</p> <p>Hazardous waste aerosols may be managed equivalent to universal wastes in Minnesota, or through pharmaceutical reverse distribution. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-00, Managing Waste Aerosols, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-00.pdf.</p> |
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| Alcohol-based hand sanitizers | <p>Many waterless hand sanitizer products are alcohol-based and are ignitable hazardous wastes when discarded. Manage alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers that do not meet the empty container requirements as hazardous waste. Use of these products as intended is not “disposal”. See Empty containers on page 8.</p> |
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| Aldex™ | <p>See Treating chemical waste at your site on page 18.</p> |
| Amalgam separators | <p>Dentists in a Metro County must install and use an amalgam separator approved by the MPCA unless they are connected to a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) other than Metropolitan Council Environmental Services. See Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) on page 15.</p> <p>A list of MPCA-approved amalgam separators is available at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/managing-mercury-dental-waste.</p> <p>Dentists outside the Metro Counties must install and use an amalgam separator that meets requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 441. Find more information on the EPA's website at https://www.epa.gov/.</p> <p>These requirements do not apply to orthodontists, periodontists, prosthodontists, or exclusive specialists in oral pathology, oral or maxillofacial surgery, or radiology.</p> <p>Reclaimed amalgam and sludge from amalgam separators may be managed equivalent to universal wastes in Minnesota. See Dental amalgam on page 6 and Dental wastewater on page 7.</p> |
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| Ambulance waste | <p>Hospitals in Minnesota are required to accept properly packaged and labeled infectious waste from ambulance services. Hospitals are not required to accept infectious waste containers that include hazardous waste (dual waste), but may do so if properly labeled. Hospitals that choose to accept hazardous or dual wastes from one ambulance service must then accept such wastes from all ambulance services that serve their facility. Waste accepted from an ambulance service is considered to be the hospital's waste.</p> <p>Ambulance services may also consolidate their infectious and hazardous waste at their central business location and dispose of it from there. See MPCA fact sheet #w-sw4-30, Infectious Waste: Management guidance for generators, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw4-30.pdf.</p> |
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| Clinitest™ tablets | <p>Unreacted Clinitest™ tablets are hazardous waste for both Reactivity and Lethality unless you evaluate them as non-hazardous.</p> <p>Reacted Clinitest™ tablets remain hazardous waste for Lethality unless evaluated as non-hazardous.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf.</p> |
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| Collecting household pharmaceuticals | <p>In Minnesota, only two types of sites may voluntarily collect household pharmaceuticals from households, schools, and temporary shelters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement agencies operated by government entities. See MPCA fact sheets #w-hhw2-06, Collecting pharmaceuticals from households and schools: requirements for law enforcement agencies, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hhw2-06.pdf. • Pharmacies licensed by the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy and authorized by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. See #w-hhw2-07, Collecting Pharmaceuticals from Households and Long Term Care Facilities, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hhw2-07.pdf. <p>Collection of household medications is voluntary and will not change the collector's hazardous waste generator 'size' or increase its annual fees. See Abandoned pharmaceuticals on page 2.</p> |
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| Container closure | <p>Containers of hazardous waste, including pharmaceutical hazardous wastes, must be closed at all times except when waste is actually being added to or removed from the container. If the container holds free liquid, the container and its closure must be liquid-tight. See Free liquids and RCRA-dry sorbents on page 10.</p> <p>Exception: Pharmaceutical hazardous waste containers may remain unclosed if they are precluded from being overturned by being physically attached to the facility structure and are movable only by designated staff, such as pharmaceutical waste containers enclosed in key-locked holders. This exception does not apply to containers of hazardous wastes that are not pharmaceuticals.</p> |
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| Container labeling | <p>Pharmaceutical hazardous waste containers must be labeled with the words 'Hazardous Waste' and a description of the contents. The descriptive word 'Pharmaceuticals' is acceptable for this second requirement.</p> <p>Pharmaceutical hazardous waste containers do not need to be labeled with an Accumulation Start Date, however LOGs and SQGs must be able to document in some fashion that they have accumulated the pharmaceutical hazardous waste for less than one year from the date it was generated.</p> <p>Containers of any other hazardous wastes must be labeled as described in MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-05, Accumulate hazardous waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-05.pdf.</p> |
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| Controlled substances | <p>Controlled substance pharmaceutical wastes are exempt from hazardous waste requirements if they meet all three of these conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Not sewerred for disposal. · Stored under U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) requirements. · Destroyed by solid waste incineration at a permitted solid waste facility, hazardous waste incineration, or other method approved by DEA in writing. <p>Many controlled substances may also be evaluated to be non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-45a, Evaluating pharmaceutical wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-45a.pdf.</p> <p><i>Destruction</i> of controlled substances regulated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is different than <i>disposal</i> of pharmaceutical hazardous wastes regulated by the MPCA. See Destruction versus disposal on page 7, On-site drug destruction products on page 14, and Treating pharmaceutical waste at your site on page 18.</p> |
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| Coroners | See Medical examiners on page 13. |
| Cremated remains | <p>Cremated human or animal remains are not infectious or pathological waste.</p> <p>Cremated human or animal remains may be individually scattered over any public water body in Minnesota, including lakes and rivers, without a permit or other authorization from the state or local government. However, approval may be required for water body access, group gatherings, or ceremonies on public land.</p> <p>Written permission from the property owner must be obtained before scattering cremated human or animal remains over public or private land in Minnesota. No other authorization from the state is required, however local county or city ordinances may restrict scattering to certain lands.</p> |
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| Cuvettes, cartridges, and boats | <p>Many laboratory analyzers use liquid reagents, calibrators, and cleaners packaged in cuvettes, cartridges, or boats. Assume all such liquids are hazardous waste unless you evaluate them as non-hazardous separate from the cuvette, cartridge, or boat. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf.</p> <p>Some cuvette, cartridge, and boat manufacturers have published Safety Data Sheets showing the concentration of liquid hazardous constituents only as a percentage of the filled cuvette, cartridge, or boat, including the weight of the plastic or metal components, citing an allowance for 'articles' under the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard. OSHA allowances do not exempt wastes from hazardous waste requirements. Applying these concentrations as published may result in an inaccurate evaluation of the liquids as non-hazardous.</p> |
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| Dental amalgam | <p>Mercury-containing dental amalgam in any form that will be recycled may be managed equivalent to universal waste. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-62, Universal Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-62.pdf.</p> <p>Mercury-containing amalgam that will not be recycled must be managed under the full hazardous waste requirements.</p> <p>See Amalgam separators on page 3.</p> |
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| Dental wastewater | <p>Mercury-containing wastewater that has been pretreated by an amalgam separator may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discharged to the sanitary sewer (connected to a publicly owned treatment works, or POTW). Notify the POTW operator first and comply with their conditions. See Sewering wastes on page 17 and Publicly Owned Treatment Works on page 15. Collected and managed equivalent to a universal waste. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-62, Universal Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-62.pdf. <p>Do not discharge mercury-containing wastewater, whether pretreated or not, to a septic system. See Septic systems on page 17.</p> <p>See Amalgam separators on page 3.</p> |
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| Destruction versus disposal | <p>Controlled substances subject to DEA requirements must be <i>destroyed</i> by being rendered non-retrievable, meaning non-recoverable by reasonable means and unusable for practical purposes. <i>Destruction</i> prevents diversion of the controlled substance for illicit purposes, however it does not prevent release into the environment. The MPCA cannot provide any guidance on whether any particular method or product meets controlled substance destruction requirements; contact the DEA for destruction questions. See More information on page 21.</p> <p>Pharmaceutical hazardous wastes subject to MPCA requirements must be properly <i>disposed</i>, which means to permanently prevent the hazardous constituents of the waste from entering the environment or harming human health. Many methods of controlled substance destruction, including products for on-site treatment, do not meet hazardous waste disposal standards. See On-site drug destruction products on page 14 and Treating pharmaceutical waste at your site on page 18.</p> |
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| Deterra™ Drug Deactivation System | See On-site drug destruction products on page 14. |
| DisposeRx™ | See On-site drug destruction products on page 14. |
| Drug Buster™ | See On-site drug destruction products on page 14. |
| Drug Destructor™ | See On-site drug destruction products on page 14. |
| DrugDisposeAll™ | See On-site drug destruction products on page 14. |
| The Drug Shredder™ | See On-site drug destruction products on page 14. |
| Dual waste | <p>The MPCA uses the term-of-convenience <i>dual waste</i> to describe waste that simultaneously meets the definitions of both hazardous waste and infectious waste. You must manage dual waste in compliance with both hazardous and infectious waste requirements.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheets #w-hw1-00, Summary of Hazardous Waste Requirements, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-00.pdf; and #w-sw4-30, Infectious Waste, Requirements for Generators, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw4-30.pdf.</p> |
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| ECG & EKG electrodes | <p>Many electroencephalograph (ECG) and electrocardiogram (EKG) electrodes contain silver in metallic or gel form. Assume waste ECG and EKG electrodes are D011 toxic hazardous wastes unless you evaluate them as non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf.</p> |
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| Electronic cigarettes | <p>Assume the liquid in electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vaporizers contains nicotine and is a P075 acute hazardous waste unless you evaluate it as non-hazardous. See Nicotine on page 13 and MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-65, Vaping Liquids, E-cigarettes, and Nicotine Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-65.pdf.</p> |
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| Electronics waste | <p>Any medical equipment containing a circuit board is considered electronics waste (E-waste) in Minnesota. E-waste must be assumed to be D008, D011, and D006 toxic hazardous waste due to the lead, silver, and cadmium in most printed circuit boards and connectors unless evaluated as non-hazardous. Manage E-waste by recycling or as fully regulated hazardous waste. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-15, Electronic Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-15.pdf.</p> |
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| Element Medication Disposal System™ (MDS) | <p>See On-site drug destruction products on page 14.</p> |
| Empty containers | <p>Pharmaceutical stock and dispensing containers with a capacity of 10,000 tablets or 1 liter liquid or less may be considered empty for hazardous waste purposes (also known as <i>RCRA-empty</i>) after the contents have been fully removed by normal means. No further rinsing or cleansing or measurement of residual is required.</p> <p>Most other containers, such as from laboratory and cleaning products that previously held hazardous waste may be considered ‘empty’ only if both of these conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All material that can be removed by the method commonly used for that type of container has been removed; and 2. After the first condition has been met, no more than 3% of the container capacity remains. (Three percent applies to containers of 119 gallons or less. Larger containers have different standards.) <p>However, if a container held an acute hazardous waste other than a pharmaceutical, such as sodium azide, or exceeds the 1 liter size above, it is not ‘empty’ until it has been triple-rinsed (rinsed three times) using a rinsing liquid that can dissolve the contents. The rinsing liquid is then an acute hazardous waste. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-02, P List of Acute Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-02.pdf.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-16, Containers Used to Hold Hazardous Wastes & Products, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-16.pdf.</p> |
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| Epinephrine | <p>Epinephrine salts (such as hydrochloride, bitartrate, and borate), which comprise the majority of pharmaceutical forms of epinephrine, are not P042 acute hazardous wastes in Minnesota. Only waste that contains unused epinephrine base as its sole active ingredient is P042 acute hazardous waste.</p> <p>Epinephrine in any form, whether a salt or not, is an MN01 lethal hazardous waste in Minnesota whenever its concentration is 0.24 percent or higher ($\geq 0.24\%$). Epinephrine at less than 0.24 percent ($< 0.24\%$) is not lethal hazardous waste.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-02, P List of Acute Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-02.pdf.</p> |
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| Ethylene oxide sterilizer residues [• Contents] | <p>Unused ethylene oxide (EtO) is a U115 listed hazardous waste.</p> <p>Properly operated EtO sterilizers are designed to minimize the creation of harmful EtO residues, including ethylene chlorohydrin (ECH), that may be hazardous wastes. Waste containing ECH at 14 percent or more ($\geq 14\%$) is an MN01 lethal hazardous waste.</p> <p>Sterilizer operators who are following the manufacturer's instructions, including load configuration, aeration, heating, and nitrogen washing, if applicable, may assume that used EtO sterilization wastes are non-hazardous.</p> |
| Evaluation documentation [• Contents] | <p>You must be able to readily access (physically or electronically) at your site all documentation from your waste evaluations, including wastes determined to be non-hazardous. If an evaluation was performed by a third party, such as a consultant or a transporter, you must have the documented rationale they used to evaluate the waste (e.g. references to the actual flashpoint, presence and concentration of any contaminants, median lethal dose, etc.); the final conclusion alone is not sufficient. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf.</p> |
| Excretions and suction waste [• Contents] | <p>Liquid and solids excreted by patients or evacuated from patients are not considered generated for hazardous waste purposes and are not required to be collected or subject to hazardous waste management. Examples include excreted or vomited barium-containing radiological contrast media, gastric suction waste from an oral poisoning patient, and chemotherapy instillation return flow.</p> <p>Implanted medical devices and equipment removed from a patient, such as insulin pumps, pacemakers, and intrauterine devices (IUDs), are considered potentially hazardous waste and are not exempt. See Implanted medical devices on page 11.</p> |
| Federally-regulated pharmaceutical wastes [• Contents] | <p>Pharmaceutical wastes commercially generated in Minnesota that have not been evaluated (and therefore must be assumed to be hazardous wastes) or that have been evaluated as P-listed, U-listed, Ignitable, Oxidizers, Corrosive, Reactive, or Toxicity Characteristic, are considered <i>federally-regulated</i> pharmaceutical hazardous wastes. Federally-regulated pharmaceutical hazardous wastes may not be sewerred for disposal after August 21, 2019. See Lethality on page 12 and Sewering wastes on page 17, and MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-45a, Evaluating pharmaceutical wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-45a.pdf.</p> |
| Formaldehyde and formalin [• Contents] | <p>Formalin is a solution of formaldehyde, methanol, and water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unused solutions containing formaldehyde as the sole active ingredient are U122 listed hazardous wastes at any concentration. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-03, U List of Hazardous Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/w-hw2-03.pdf. • Used and unused solutions containing 20 percent or more ($\geq 20\%$) formaldehyde are MN01 lethal hazardous wastes. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-05, The Lethality Characteristic, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-05.pdf. • Used solutions containing less than 20 percent ($< 20\%$) formaldehyde are considered non-hazardous. <p>Notify your sewage treatment plant (publicly owned treatment works, or POTW) operator before you discharge any formaldehyde or formalin, regardless of its hazardous waste status. Never discharge waste formalin or formaldehyde to a septic system. See Publicly Owned Treatment Works on page 15.</p> |

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| Free liquids and RCRA-dry sorbents | <p>'Free liquids' are liquid wastes that may drip or be squeezed from disposed sorbents (such as swabs, towels, wipes, and rags). Sorbents with free liquid must be managed as the liquid itself would be. For example, swabs with free liquid ignitable ethanol must be managed as D001 ignitable hazardous waste. Free liquid hazardous wastes must be accumulated in closed, liquid-tight containers, except that certain pharmaceutical waste containers may remain unclosed if physically secured to the structure. See Container closure on page 5.</p> <p>Sorbents that do not contain free liquids are considered <i>RCRA-dry</i>. Sorbents may be considered RCRA-dry in Minnesota if no liquid drips from them when wrung or squeezed. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-61, Managing Sorbents: Towels, Wipes, and Rags, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-61.pdf.</p> <p>Assume all sorbents to which you add liquids, as well as all sorbents with attached liquid reservoirs such as applicators commonly used with surgical and wound prep solutions, contain free liquids until you show they are RCRA-dry. See Surgical/wound prep products on page 17.</p> <p>Prepackaged disinfectant wipes to which you do not add liquid may be assumed to be RCRA-dry after use. See Prepackaged disinfectant wipes on page 15.</p> |
| Glutaraldehyde | <p>Cold sterilants with a glutaraldehyde concentration of 27 percent or more ($\geq 27\%$) are MN01 lethal hazardous wastes. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-05, The Lethality Characteristic, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-05.pdf.</p> <p>Since glutaraldehyde is an aquatic toxicant, generators are encouraged to neutralize waste glutaraldehyde of any concentration with glycine before discharge to the sanitary sewer. If you intend to discharge waste glutaraldehyde of any concentration to the sanitary sewer, notify the system operator before discharge, whether or not the waste will be neutralized, and comply with any conditions they impose. See Sewering wastes on page 17.</p> <p>Do not discharge glutaraldehyde, treated or not, to a septic system.</p> |
| Group homes | <p>Group homes with a capacity of six residents or less may consider that their pharmaceutical, other hazardous wastes from care of residents, and infectious wastes are exempt household wastes regardless of any other factors.</p> <p>See Home-based care waste on page 11.</p> |
| Hazardous terms | <p>Health care providers are subject to many laws with similar-sounding and sometimes-confused 'hazardous' terms. Different terms may apply to different items and trigger different legal requirements, even at the same facility. There are also several different simultaneous definitions for some hazardous terms. Which definition applies to a situation depends on which law is triggered by the situation. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw0-15, 'Hazardous' Terms - What They Mean, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw0-15.pdf.</p> |
| HemoCue™ cuvettes | <p>Liquids from HemoCue™ cuvettes must be assumed to be MN01 lethal hazardous wastes unless evaluated as non-hazardous, except for the HemoCue™ Glucose 201 Microcuvette and Hb 201 Microcuvette, which may be assumed to be non-hazardous.</p> <p>Ensure you evaluate the liquids separate from the mass of the cuvette container. See Cuvettes, cartridges, and boats on page 6.</p> |

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| Home-based care waste | <p>Services providing care to patients in their own homes and group homes may manage hazardous and infectious waste generated in the home as exempt household wastes. See Group homes on page 10.</p> <p>Household pharmaceutical waste may be transported directly to a licensed household pharmaceutical collection receptacle (also known as a dropbox). Find a collection receptacle through the MPCA at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications.</p> <p>Other household hazardous wastes may be transported to a household hazardous waste collection program. Find a household hazardous waste collection program at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/find-your-household-hazardous-waste-collection-site</p> <p>Home health care providers may also transport wastes back to their central business location and dispose of them as commercially-generated wastes. See Off-site care providers on page 14.</p> |
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| Household versus commercial wastes | <p>Pharmaceutical and other hazardous wastes at long-term care facilities that provide skilled nursing care or that centrally store and control pharmaceutical distribution are considered commercially generated and regulated wastes. Regulated pharmaceutical hazardous wastes may not be discarded into the normal trash or transported to household pharmaceutical collection receptacles. Pharmaceutical hazardous wastes subject to federal regulation may not be sewerer for disposal after August 21, 2019. See Federally-regulated pharmaceutical wastes on page 9.</p> <p>Pharmaceutical and other hazardous wastes at assisted living facilities that do not provide skilled nursing care and where pharmaceuticals are stored directly in resident rooms or unrestricted-access locations such as bathrooms are considered exempt household waste, even if the in-room cabinets or drawers are locked for safety. See Home-based care waste on page 11.</p> <p>Note: Pharmaceutical and infectious waste generated in home-based care facilities with a maximum capacity of six residents may be considered household waste regardless of the above. See Group homes on page 10.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Ictotest™ tablets | <p>Unreacted Ictotest™ tablets must be assumed to be D003 reactive hazardous waste. Reacted Ictotest™ tablets are not hazardous waste when a solid, but dissolving them in water may create a D002 corrosive liquid hazardous waste.</p> <p>Corrosive hazardous wastes may be neutralized on site and discharged to the sanitary sewer. If you intend to discharge Ictotest™ waste to the sanitary sewer, notify the system operator before discharge, whether or not the waste will be neutralized, and comply with any conditions they impose. See Sewering wastes on page 17.</p> <p>Do not discharge Ictotest™ waste, treated or not, to a septic system.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Implanted medical devices | <p>Implanted medical devices and equipment removed from a patient, such as insulin pumps, pacemakers, and IUDs, are considered potentially regulated waste and are not exempt. Devices containing circuit boards or batteries are electronic wastes. See Electronics waste on page 8 and Intrauterine devices (IUDs) on page 12.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Infectious waste | <p>Infectious waste is the term in Minnesota for biologically-dangerous waste from health care providers. This waste may also be referred to as biohazardous waste, medical waste, or regulated medical waste (RMW). Any health care provider generating infectious waste, including just sharps, must prepare and follow an infectious waste management plan. Do not send your infectious waste management plan to the MPCA or Metro Counties unless specifically requested. See MPCA fact sheet #w-sw4-30, Infectious Waste for generators, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw4-30.pdf.</p> |
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| Intrauterine devices (IUDs) | <p>Some IUDs may contain barium for radiopacity purposes, and some may contain pharmaceutical hormones to increase their effectiveness. When removed by a health care provider and disposed, such IUDs may be D005 toxic hazardous wastes or MN01 lethal hazardous wastes. Manage all removed IUDs as hazardous waste unless you evaluate them as non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Intravenous bags and attached tubing | <p>An intravenous (IV) bag and its attached tubing (also known as an administration set or infusion set) are together considered a container. When assessing whether an administration set is empty, you must consider residual liquid in the entire set, including the attached tubing, unless any portion of the set may be removed and is discarded separately. See Empty containers on page 8.</p> <p>Note: Administration sets containing pharmaceuticals often leak after disposal, so consider them hazardous waste free liquids unless you have evaluated them as non-hazardous. See Free liquids and RCRA-dry sorbents on page 10.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Laboratory waste | <p>Assume all laboratory waste you dispose is hazardous unless you have evaluated it to be non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf.</p> <p>Rinsing laboratory stains, reagents, and fixatives into a sink or drain is disposal. Health care laboratories that dispose of any waste by discharging it to the sanitary sewer must notify the sewage treatment plant operator before discharge. See Sewering waste on page 17.</p> <p>See also Automated laboratory analyzers on page 4.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Lethality | <p>In addition to the five federal hazardous waste characteristics (Ignitability, Oxidizers, Corrosivity, Reactivity, and Toxicity), Minnesota has an additional state-specific hazardous waste characteristic: Lethality. Lethality considers the toxicological effect of the waste; effectively, how poisonous the waste is through oral, dermal, and inhalation exposure.</p> <p>All pharmaceutical wastes in Minnesota must be assumed to be MN01 Lethal hazardous wastes unless evaluated as non-Lethal. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-45b, Alternate method to evaluate pharmaceutical waste for the Lethality characteristic, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-45b.pdf.</p> <p>Pharmaceutical wastes that have been evaluated as non-Lethal remain federally-regulated pharmaceutical wastes unless evaluated as non-hazardous. See Federally-regulated pharmaceutical wastes on page 9.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Listed hazardous wastes | <p>In addition to the four federal hazardous waste lists (F, K, P, and U), Minnesota has an additional state-specific listed hazardous waste: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). However, no K-listed wastes are normally found at healthcare facilities, and PCBs are usually found in healthcare facilities only in older lighting ballasts and older radiology and radiation therapy equipment. See MPCA fact sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #w-hw2-00, F List of Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-00.pdf • #w-hw2-02, P List of Acute Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-02.pdf • #w-hw2-03, U List of Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-03.pdf • #w-hw4-48f, Managing PCBs in Ballasts and Small Capacitors, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-48f.pdf |
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| Mail-back disposal | <p>You may use a 'mail-back' disposal service for pharmaceuticals only for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pharmaceutical reverse distribution. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw3-36b, Pharmaceutical Reverse Distribution, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw3-36b.pdf. • household pharmaceutical wastes. See Household versus commercial wastes on page 11. • pharmaceutical wastes evaluated as non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-45a, Evaluating Pharmaceutical Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-45a.pdf. <p>You may use a 'mail-back' disposal service utilizing the U.S. Postal Service for infectious wastes from businesses or households. See MPCA fact sheet #w-sw4-30, Infectious waste for generators, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw4-30.pdf.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| MaxPro Solidification Processing Unit (SPU) TM | See On-site drug destruction products on page 14. |
| Medical examiners | <p>Medical examiners not operating within a healthcare facility, such as a hospital or clinic, are considered fully regulated hazardous waste generators. Pharmaceuticals and other personal effects disposed by medical examiners are not household wastes and may not be transported to household pharmaceutical collection receptacles or household hazardous waste collection programs.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Needle-less syringe connectors | <p>Needle-less syringe connectors of any size connected to a syringe with the plunger fully depressed may be considered part of the syringe and 'RCRA-empty' as long as the connector does not include any flow tubing. See Waste in used syringes on page 19 and Empty containers on page 8.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Nicotine | <p>Over-the-counter (OTC), meaning non-prescription, nicotine replacement therapy pharmaceuticals approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) are exempt from the P075 acute hazardous waste listing and may be assumed non-hazardous in Minnesota.</p> <p>Prescription nicotine pharmaceuticals and nicotine-containing e-cigarettes and vaping liquid pharmaceuticals remain P075 acute hazardous wastes. Stock and dispensing containers of nicotine pharmaceuticals may be considered empty once all of the pharmaceutical has been fully removed by normal means. See Empty containers on page 8.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-02, P List of Acute Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-02.pdf.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Nitroglycerin | <p>Nitroglycerin in any final pharmaceutical form is not a P081 acute hazardous waste and may be assumed to be non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-02, P List of Acute Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-02.pdf.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Off-site care providers | <p>Providers that care for patients at remote sites or in the patient's home may transport wastes generated at the remote site back to their primary place of business for consolidation and subsequent regulated management. See Ambulance waste on page 3, Home-based care waste on page 11, and MPCA fact sheet #w-hw3-11, Managing Hazardous Waste Generated by Construction and Service Contractors, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw3-11.pdf.</p> |
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| <p>On-site drug destruction products</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[• Contents]</p> | <p>Most products marketed for on-site drug destruction are intended to meet DEA requirements for controlled substances destruction and Minnesota Board of Pharmacy (Board) requirements for legend (prescription) drugs destruction. On-site drug destruction products may not be assumed to render unevaluated or hazardous waste pharmaceuticals non-hazardous under MPCA requirements nor allow you to throw them into the normal trash without evaluation.</p> <p>See Destruction versus disposal on page 7 and Treating pharmaceutical waste at your site on page 18.</p> <p>The MPCA can provide no guidance on whether these products meet DEA or Board standards or are approved for use by the DEA or Board. Only the DEA and Board can answer these questions. See More information on page 21.</p> <p>If you use an on-site drug destruction products to destroy your controlled substance or legend drug wastes for on-site safety reasons, you must manage the resulting mixture as a fully regulated hazardous waste unless you have evaluated it as non-hazardous. A marketing claim that the product renders pharmaceuticals 'inert' or 'safe' is insufficient and may not take the place of evaluation.</p> |
| <p>OPA solutions</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[• Contents]</p> | <p>Ortho-phthalaldehyde (OPA) cold sterilants are not hazardous waste in Minnesota, but are aquatic toxicants. The MPCA encourages OPA sterilant to neutralize the OPA with glycine before discharging it to the sanitary sewer. If you intend to discharge waste OPA to the sanitary sewer, notify the sewage system operator before discharge, whether or not the waste will be neutralized, and comply with any conditions they impose. See Sewering wastes on page 17.</p> <p>Do not discharge OPA, treated or not, to a septic system.</p> |
| <p>Packaging</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[• Contents]</p> | <p><i>Inner packaging</i> includes wrappers, adhesive backing from patches, and foil that were in direct contact with a pharmaceutical. Inner packaging is considered a segment of a container that held the pharmaceutical and is subject to the hazardous waste container requirements. See Empty containers on page 8.</p> <p><i>Outer packaging</i> is any packaging outside of the inner packaging and that was not in direct contact with a pharmaceutical. Outer packaging may be managed as normal solid waste without evaluation.</p> |
| <p>Personal protective equipment (PPE)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[• Contents]</p> | <p>Personal protective equipment (PPE) potentially contaminated with solid pharmaceutical hazardous wastes, such as tablets, or with other solid hazardous wastes may be visually inspected for contamination. Any dusts or particles adhered to the PPE remain regulated wastes. PPE not visibly contaminated may be assumed to be non-hazardous and managed as normal solid waste.</p> <p>Manage PPE potentially contaminated with liquid pharmaceuticals or other liquid hazardous wastes as discussed in Chemotherapy wastes on page 4.</p> <p>Manage radiology PPE as discussed in X-ray shielding and packaging on page 20.</p> |

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| Septic systems | <p>Septic systems are also known as subsurface sewage treatment systems, individual sewage treatment systems, and community septic systems. If your facility is not connected to a public sanitary sewer, assume it is connected to a septic system. No pharmaceuticals, laboratory, dental, or maintenance wastes may be discharged to a septic system, regardless if first filtered, treated, or neutralized. Only normal toilet, washing, and food preparation waste may be discharged to a septic system.</p> <p>If your facility is connected to a septic system, you must separately collect all other liquid wastes and transport them off-site to a POTW, liquid industrial waste facility, or hazardous waste facility, as appropriate for the waste, for disposal.</p> <p>See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-06, Treat or dispose of hazardous waste at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-06.pdf.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Sewering wastes | <p>Federally-regulated pharmaceutical hazardous wastes may not be seweraged for disposal after August 21, 2019. See Federally-regulated pharmaceutical wastes on page 9.</p> <p>You may discharge other hazardous wastes to a public sanitary sewer for disposal in Minnesota if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First notify the POTW operator. • Comply with any limits, conditions, or prohibitions they apply. See Publicly Owned Treatment Works on page 15. <p>Assume any waste you discharge to the sewer is hazardous unless you have evaluated it as non-hazardous. Wastes must be evaluated individually prior to sewerage; you may not evaluate your combined wastewater. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf.</p> <p>Do not discharge any waste except normal toilet and sink waste to a septic system. See Septic systems on page 17.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Shelters | See Abandoned pharmaceuticals on page 2. |
| Stains, fixatives, and reagents | Assume all stains, fixatives, reagents, and rinsewater from cleaning those products are hazardous unless you evaluate each separately before combining with other wastes. Rinsing slides or equipment into a drain is regulated disposal subject to the requirements for seweraged wastes. See Sewering wastes on page 17. |
| [• Contents] | |
| Sterilization indicators | Some sterilization indicator products still contain lead or barium and are D008 or D005 toxic hazardous wastes. Assume your sterilization indicator wastes are hazardous unless you have evaluated them as non-hazardous. If your sterilization indicator is a tape adhered to a sheet of sterilization wrap, commonly known as 'blue wrap', you may evaluate the combined adhered mass of tape and wrap as a single waste stream. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf . |
| [• Contents] | |
| Suction waste | See Excretions and suction waste on page 9. |
| Surgical/wound prep products | <p>Many surgical and wound prep products consist of a sorbent pad attached to a liquid reservoir. The most common disinfection agents used in these products, such as DuraPrep™ and ChloroPrep™, are alcohol-based and D001 ignitable hazardous wastes when disposed.</p> <p>Manage these products as hazardous wastes unless the sorbent pad is RCRA-dry and the reservoir meets the empty container standard, or unless you have evaluated the waste as non-hazardous. See Free liquids and RCRA-dry sorbents on page 10 and Empty containers on page 8.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |

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| Training | <p>Expected to begin in 2022, LQGs and SQGs generating pharmaceutical hazardous waste will be required to train any employees handling those wastes in hazardous waste management at least once within six months of beginning duties. The current exception for employees handling pharmaceutical wastes only in satellite accumulation containers will no longer apply.</p> <p>Employees at LQGs handling only pharmaceutical wastes will not be required to receive annual refresher training, though the MPCA still recommends all generators periodically ensure their staff remain 'fresh' in their hazardous waste knowledge.</p> <p>Employees handling any other hazardous wastes will remain subject to the standard hazardous waste training requirements. See MPCA fact sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #w-hw1-09a, Employee Training for Very Small Quantity Generators, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-09a.pdf • #w-hw1-09b, Employee Training for Small Quantity Generators, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-09b.pdf • #w-hw1-09c, Employee Training for Large Quantity Generators, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-09c.pdf <p>To determine your hazardous waste generator size, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-02, Determine Generator Size, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-02.pdf.</p> |
| Treating chemical waste at your site | <p>You may use products such as Aldex™, ChemGon™, or others to treat your dental, laboratory, maintenance, and other chemical wastes at your site without approval, but you must manage the resulting mixture as a fully regulated hazardous waste unless you have evaluated the resulting mixture as non-hazardous.</p> <p>Do not place it in your normal trash without evaluation. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, Evaluate Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-01.pdf.</p> <p>All treatment must be performed in a closed container. Count all hazardous waste treated on site toward your hazardous waste generator size and include it in your annual hazardous waste license application.</p> |
| Treating infectious waste at your site | <p>You may treat your infectious waste at your site without approval if the waste does not contain sharps. Verify it is no longer infectious before placing it in normal trash.</p> <p>If your infectious waste contains sharps, you may treat it on-site but must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a treatment system approved by the MPCA. See MPCA fact sheet #w-sw4-34, Infectious Waste: Approved Waste Management Vendors and Systems in Minnesota, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw4-34.pdf; or • Continue to manage the waste after treatment under the full infectious waste requirements. See MPCA fact sheet #w-sw4-30, Infectious Waste for Generators, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw4-30.pdf. |
| Treating pharmaceutical waste at your site | <p>You may treat your pharmaceutical waste at your site without approval, but you must manage the resulting mixture as a fully regulated hazardous waste unless you have evaluated it as non-hazardous.</p> <p>Do not place it in your normal trash without evaluation. See Destruction versus disposal on page 7, On-site drug destruction products on page 14, and MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-45a, Evaluating Pharmaceutical Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-45a.pdf.</p> <p>All treatment must be performed in a closed container. Count all hazardous waste treated on site towards your hazardous waste generator size and include it in your annual hazardous waste license application.</p> |

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| Unsorted pharmaceuticals | <p>You may co-mingle potential product and waste pharmaceuticals in a common container for later sorting. The entire contents of the container are considered waste until the products and wastes are sorted back out. Common containers must meet all hazardous waste container requirements unless you have evaluated the wastes as non-hazardous. See Container labeling on page 5 and MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-05, Accumulate Hazardous Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-05.pdf.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Vaccines | <p>Vaccines are subject to the same hazardous waste requirements and eligible for the same allowances as all other pharmaceuticals, including reverse distribution. See Pharmaceutical waste assumption on page 15, Empty containers on page 8 and Reverse distribution of pharmaceuticals on page 16.</p> |
| [• Contents] | <p>Vaccines are most commonly hazardous waste due to toxic preservatives, including D026 cresol and D009 mercury.</p> <p>Live and attenuated vaccines may also be infectious wastes or dual waste. See Infectious waste on page 12 and Dual waste on page 7.</p> |
| Vaping liquid | <p>Vaping liquid, the solution used in electronic cigarettes, is also known as e-liquid, e-juice, e-fluid, or liquid nicotine. Assume vaping liquid contains nicotine and is a P075 acute hazardous waste unless you have evaluated it as non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-65, Vaping Liquids, E-cigarettes, and Nicotine Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-65.pdf.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Veterinary pharmaceuticals | <p>Veterinary pharmaceuticals are subject to the same hazardous waste requirements and eligible for the same allowances as human pharmaceuticals, including reverse distribution. See Pharmaceutical waste assumption on page 15, Empty containers on page 8 and Reverse distribution of pharmaceuticals on page 16.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |
| Vitamins | <p>Vitamins are subject to the same hazardous waste requirements and eligible for the same allowances as all other pharmaceuticals, including reverse distribution. See Pharmaceutical waste assumption on page 15, Empty containers on page 8 and Reverse distribution of pharmaceuticals on page 16.</p> |
| [• Contents] | <p>Vitamins are most commonly hazardous waste due to toxic nutrients or contaminants, including D007 chromium and D010 selenium.</p> |
| Voluntarily surrendered drugs | <p>See Abandoned pharmaceuticals on page 2.</p> |
| Waste in used syringes | <p>Pharmaceuticals remaining in a used syringe are considered used and therefore not P-Listed or U-Listed wastes. Pharmaceuticals remaining in a used syringe must be assumed to be characteristic hazardous wastes unless evaluated as non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #w-hw2-02, P List of Acute Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-02.pdf • #w-hw2-03, U List of Hazardous Wastes, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-03.pdf • #w-hw2-04, Hazardous Waste Characteristics, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-04.pdf <p>Used syringes are considered empty containers and not regulated as hazardous wastes if the plunger is fully depressed, regardless of any fluid in the needle or hub. See Empty containers on page 8.</p> |
| [• Contents] | |

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| Wasting | <p>Squirting or pouring pharmaceuticals into a drain or into sorbents disposed into normal trash or infectious waste, called wasting, is regulated disposal.</p> <p>Federally-regulated pharmaceutical hazardous wastes may not be wasted into the sewer for disposal after August 21, 2019.</p> <p>See Federally-regulated pharmaceutical wastes on page 9 and Sewering wastes on page 17.</p> <p>Wasting into sorbents disposed into normal trash or infectious waste is allowed only if the pharmaceuticals have been evaluated as non-hazardous. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-45a, Evaluating Pharmaceutical Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-45a.pdf.</p> <p>[• Contents]</p> |
| X-ray machines | <p>See Radiology/radiation equipment on page 16.</p> |
| X-ray film & plates | <p>Film: You may assume X-ray film manufactured after 1976 is non-hazardous for silver, but are still encouraged to recycle all waste X-ray film. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-46, Managing Photographic and X-ray Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-46.pdf.</p> <p>Reusable plates: Many reusable X-ray plates used with digital or computed radiography systems, known as photostimulable phosphor (PSP) plates, contain barium. Assume your PSP plates are D005 toxic hazardous waste when disposed, unless you evaluate them as non-hazardous. If you ship them to the manufacturer for refurbishment instead of disposal, do not count them towards your hazardous waste generator size or report them to the MPCA or Metro County.</p> <p>[• Contents]</p> |
| X-ray shielding and packaging | <p>X-ray shielding, personal protective equipment (PPE), and film packaging commonly contain lead, either in foil or powder form.</p> <p>Lead metal sheets and foil are exempt from hazardous waste regulation if they are recycled as scrap metal. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-27, Hazardous Scrap Metal, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-27.pdf.</p> <p>Glass, rubber, plastic, and other materials impregnated with lead powder or lead compounds are not scrap metal and are D008 toxic hazardous wastes when recycled or discarded. If recycled, ship them to the recycling facility using a Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-42, Recycling Hazardous Waste, at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-42.pdf.</p> <p>[• Contents]</p> |

More information

Guidance and requirements in this fact sheet were compiled from Minnesota Statutes, Chapters §115A and §116, and Minnesota Rules, Chapters 7035 and 7045, and incorporate regulatory interpretation decisions made by the MPCA on July 2, 2004; October 17, 2007; October 18, 2007; September 9, 2008; October 27, 2008; November 28, 2008; May 21, 2010; April 13, 2011; May 6, 2011; August 9, 2011; and January 25, 2012; May 8, 2015; May 9, 2016; October 12, 2016; and December 14, 2016; April 10, 2019; and May 17, 2019. Visit the Office of the Revisor of Statutes at [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs to review the Minnesota Statutes and Rules](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs%20to%20review%20the%20Minnesota%20Statutes%20and%20Rules).

Contact your Metro County or the MPCA with your questions. The MPCA's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program can also provide free, confidential regulatory compliance assistance. The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) can help you reduce your waste generation and risk. Report all hazardous waste incidents such as spills to the Minnesota Duty Officer immediately.

Metro County Hazardous Waste Offices

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| Anoka | 763-422-7093 |
| | https://www.anokacounty.us/ |
| Carver | 952-361-1800 |
| | http://www.co.carver.mn.us/ |
| Dakota | 952-891-7557 |
| | https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/ |
| Hennepin | 612-348-3777 |
| | http://www.hennepin.us/ |
| Ramsey | 651-266-1199 |
| | https://www.ramseycounty.us/ |
| Scott | 952-496-8177 |
| | http://www.scottcountymn.gov/ |
| Washington | 651-430-6655 |
| | https://www.co.washington.mn.us/ |

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

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| Toll free | 1-800-882-9539 |
| Minneapolis Field Office | 612-344-4143 |
| | https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/ |

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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| Toll free (all offices) | 1-800-657-3864 |
| All offices | 651-296-6300 |
| | https://www.pca.state.mn.us/ |

Minnesota Duty Officer

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Toll free | 1-800-422-0798 |
| Metro | 651-649-5451 |

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

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| Toll free | 1-800-657-3938 |
| Metro | 651-282-6143 |
| | https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sbeap/ |

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

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| Toll free | 1-800-247-0015 |
| Metro | 612-624-1300 |
| | http://www.mntap.umn.edu |

Minnesota Board of Pharmacy

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| Statewide | 651-201-2825 |
| | https://mn.gov/boards/pharmacy/ |

Minnesota Department of Health

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| Toll free | 1-888-345-0823 |
| Metro | 651-201-5000 |
| | http://www.health.state.mn.us/ |