

Very Small Quantity Generator Collection Programs

Instructions and list of available hazardous waste collection programs

Very small quantity generators of hazardous waste

Businesses that generate 100 kilograms (kg) (220 pounds or about 22 gallons) or less of hazardous waste per month are known as Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs). VSQGs have a hazardous waste disposal option available to them in addition to those allowed for all generators, called a VSQG Collection Program.

VSQG Collection Programs are sites authorized by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) or other states to accept and consolidate hazardous waste from VSQGs before shipping it for proper disposal. While most VSQG Collection Programs charge a disposal fee, and you must usually transport your hazardous waste to the program yourself, they are still commonly less expensive than hiring a disposal vendor to pick up hazardous waste at your site.

How to use a VSQG Collection Program to dispose of your hazardous waste

1. Verify that your business site is a VSQG. Business sites that generate more than 100 kg of hazardous waste in a month are not VSQGs and may not use VSQG Collection Programs. VSQGs may, however, accumulate up to 1000 kg over many months and dispose of it all at one time and still remain VSQGs and eligible to use VSQG Collection Programs. For more information about 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>.
2. Obtain or verify your site's hazardous waste identification number (HWID). You may not take your hazardous waste to any VSQG Collection Program unless your site has a valid HWID.
 - If your site does not have an HWID, you must use the MPCA's e-Services Notification of regulated waste activity to obtain one. Instructions for the e-Services Notification are available in MPCA fact sheet #w-hw5-12 at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw5-12.pdf>.
 - If you believe your site already has an HWID, verify that it is valid for your business using the MPCA's Search the hazardous waste identification number database tool at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/hazardous-waste-identification-number-search>.
3. Choose a VSQG Collection Program from the [program list](#) on page 3. In addition to the programs listed, a VSQG in Minnesota may also transport their hazardous waste to a VSQG Collection Program in a surrounding state that is authorized by that state to receive out-of-state hazardous waste.
4. Contact and get preapproval from the program you have selected. Most programs will not accept waste without preapproval and an appointment for each shipment. Not all programs accept all wastes. In addition, some programs have per-visit or annual volume limits.
5. Package your hazardous waste to meet the standards of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) and your chosen VSQG Collection Program. Find detailed guidance on the HMR requirements in MPCA fact sheet #w-hw2-53, Requirements for Transporting waste to a very small quantity generator collection program, at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw2-53.pdf>. Many programs can provide you packaging guidance, or may have their own packaging requirements.
6. Transport only your own hazardous waste in your business's vehicle. Some government-operated VSQG Collection Programs may also offer waste pick-up service. Do not transport another business's waste.
7. Get a receipt. Keep the receipt received by the VSQG Collection Program for at least three years.

What wastes do most VSQG Collection Programs accept?

Most VSQG Collection Programs can accept many common business hazardous wastes, including paints, solvents, cleaners, wastes containing heavy metals, and universal wastes.

Universal wastes in Minnesota include fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; batteries; mercury-containing devices; aerosols and compressed gas cylinders; and pesticides accepted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Waste Pesticide Collection Program. For more information, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-62, Managing Universal Wastes, at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-62.pdf>.

What wastes do most VSQG Collection Programs reject?

- **Asbestos.** Contact your county solid waste officer or MPCA solid waste staff for assistance in identifying and properly disposing of asbestos wastes. For more information, see MPCA webpage Asbestos in demolition or renovations, at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/asbestos-demolition-or-renovations>.
- **Electronics.** Electronics that will be recycled may be transported without a manifest to a collection or recycling site. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-15, Managing electronic wastes, at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-15.pdf>.
- **Explosives.** Contact your local law enforcement agency or fire department for assistance in handling and properly disposing of any suspected explosive wastes.
- **Infectious waste (sharps).** You may transport your infectious waste to any Certified Infectious Waste Facility or hire a Registered Infectious Waste Transporter to pick it up from your site. 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>.
- **Pharmaceutical wastes.** Pharmaceutical wastes may have complex disposal requirements. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw3-35, Regulatory consensus on health care waste issues, at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw3-35.pdf>.
- **Radioactive wastes.** Contact the Radiation Control Section at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for assistance in identifying and properly disposing of potentially radioactive wastes.
- **Used oil.** You may transport up to 55 gallons of used oil to any other business as long as the receiving business will not burn the used oil without testing it first. You may also ship your used oil with a used oil transporter. See MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-30, Used oil and related wastes, at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-30.pdf>.

More information

Guidance and requirements in this fact sheet were compiled from Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7045, and incorporate regulatory interpretation decisions made by the MPCA on December 1, 2014.

For general information on hazardous waste identification and management, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-00, Summary of hazardous waste requirements, at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw1-00.pdf>.

The MPCA's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) offers free, confidential regulatory compliance assistance. The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) can help reduce your waste.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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

Minnesota Department of Health, Radiation Control

Statewide..... 651-201-4400
Email..... health.ram@state.mn.us
Website <https://www.health.state.mn.us/>

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

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

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

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

Available Minnesota VSQG Collection Programs
Always contact a program first to get preapproval for your waste.

Location	Contact	Counties served
Blaine Stericycle	Customer Service 800-934-7914	Statewide
Eagan Dakota County	Rolland Meillier 952-891-7545 rolland.meillier@co.dakota.mn.us	Statewide
Minneapolis University of Minnesota	Chemical Safety Day 612-590-5224 shuff001@umn.edu	Statewide <i>*Though not a VSQG Collection Program, CSD provides similar services to schools and non-profit organizations.</i>
Bagley Northwest MN HHW Management	Randy Bodensteiner 218-694-2090 rhb@gvtel.com	Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau
Chaska Carver County	Dustin Heidinger 952-361-1836 dheidinger@co.carver.mn.us	Carver
Detroit Lakes Becker County	Sandy Gunderson 218-846-7200 sandy.gunderson@co.becker.mn.us	Becker, Clay, Hubbard, Mahnomon, Norman
Duluth Western Lake Superior Sanitary District	Clean Shop 218-726-1602 Clean.Shop@wlssd.duluth.mn.us	Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis
Dundas Rice County	Paul Pieper 507-332-6833 ppieper@co.rice.mn.us	Rice, Steele, Waseca
Hutchinson McLeod County	Sarah Young 320-484-4319 sarah.young@co.mcleod.mn.us	Carver, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Sibley, Wright
Jordan Scott County	Richard Jones 952-496-8366 rjones@co.scott.mn.us	Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Rice, Scott, Sibley
Mankato Blue Earth County	Ken Frederick 507-304-4381 Ken.Frederick@blueearthcountymn.gov	Blue Earth, Brown, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Sibley, Watonwan
Marshall Lyon County	Darron Grahn 507-532-8210 darrongrahn@co.lyon.mn.us	Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Yellow Medicine
Rochester Olmsted County	David Vail 507-328-7070 pwservice@co.olmsted.mn.us	Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Winona
St. Paul Ramsey County	Kelly Giglio 651-291-3451 VSQG@baywest.com	Ramsey
Truman Prairieland Solid Waste Management	Billeye Rabbe 507-776-3232 billeye@prlandswm.com	Faribault, Martin
Waite Park Stearns County	Troy Freihammer 320-656-6293 troy.freihammer@co.stearns.mn.us	Benton, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns
Willmar Kandiyohi County	Jay Baker 320 231-3587 jay.baker@kcmn.us	Big Stone, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Renville, Swift
Winona Winona County	Kim Nelson 507-457-6462 knelson@co.winona.mn.us	Fillmore, Houston, Winona
Woodbury Washington County	Adam Frederick 651-497-8433 adam.frederick@co.washington.mn.us	Washington