

Very Small Quantity Generator Collection Programs

Instructions and list of available 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 another 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 VSQG Collection Programs charge a disposal fee, and you must usually transport your hazardous waste to the program's facility yourself, they are still often less expensive than hiring a commercial disposal vendor.

How to use a VSQG Collection Program to dispose of your 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 1,000 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, also known as an EPA ID#). You may not take your hazardous waste to a 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>
 - Verify an HWID you believe your site already has using the MPCA's What's in my neighborhood tool at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/whats-in-my-neighborhood>
3. Choose a VSQG Collection Program from the [program list](#) on page 3. In addition to the Minnesota 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 VSQG Collection Program you have selected. 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). Many VSQG Collection Programs can provide you with assistance meeting the HMR, and you can also find additional guidance 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>
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 for your waste. Keep the receipt you get from the VSQG Collection Program for at least three years; this is your verification of proper hazardous waste management.

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 devices, aerosols, compressed gas cylinders, and certain pesticides. For more information, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-62, Universal Wastes, at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-62.pdf>

What wastes do most VSQG Collection Programs reject?

- **Ammunition and explosives.** Contact your local law enforcement agency or fire department for assistance in handling and properly disposing of ammunition and any suspected explosive wastes.
- **Asbestos.** Contact your county solid waste officer or the MPCA for assistance in managing asbestos wastes. For more information, visit the MPCA's Asbestos in demolition or renovations webpage, at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/asbestos-in-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>
- **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) 800-657-3864

All offices 651-296-6300

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

Toll free 800-657-3938

Metro 651-282-6143

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

Minnesota Department of Health, Radiation Control

Statewide 651-201-4400

health.ram@state.mn.us

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/>

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

Toll free 800-247-0015

Metro 612-624-1300

<http://www.mntap.umn.edu>

Location & Operator	Contact	Counties served
Chaska Carver County	Matthew Nelson 952-361-1836 mtnelson@co.carver.mn.us	Statewide
Eagan Dakota County	Rolland Meillier 952-891-7545 rolland.meillier@co.dakota.mn.us	Statewide
Minneapolis University of Minnesota	Chemical Safety Day Kristofer Weaver 612-626-1553 kweaver@umn.edu	Statewide <i>*Though not a business VSQG Collection Program, CSD provides similar services to schools and non-profit organizations.</i>
Bagley Northwest Minnesota household hazardous waste (HHW) Management	Randy Bodensteiner 218-694-2090 rhb@gvtel.com	Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau
Detroit Lakes Becker County	Todd Kunkel 218-846-7200 todd.kunkel@co.becker.mn.us	Becker, Clay, Hubbard, Mahnomen, Norman
Duluth Western Lake Superior Sanitary District	Clean Shop 218-726-1602 clean.shop@wlssd.com	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	Molly Kjellesvig 507-304-4381 molly.kjellesvig@blueearthcountymn.gov	Blue Earth, Brown, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Sibley, Watonwan
Marshall Lyon County	Darron Grahn 507-532-8211 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	Andy Geiger 507-776-3232 andy@prlandswm.com	Faribault, Martin
Waite Park Stearns County	Ryan Thompson 320-656-3613 ryan.thompson@co.stearns.mn.us	Benton, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns
Willmar Kandiyohi County	Derek Amundson 320 231-3587 derek.amundson@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