

## Where do I find copies of these regulations?

<http://www.epchc.org/rules.htm>

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/Division.asp?DivID=430>

<http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/>

## Why it is important to comply with these regulations and what will happen if I do not?

First it is important to Florida's most precious resource—groundwater. Ninety-five percent of Florida's drinking water comes from groundwater. In some areas, groundwater is less than five feet under the surface. That means that chemicals which are dumped onto the ground or unknowingly placed in a landfill can quickly contaminate the soil and groundwater underneath.

Second, public health and safety is placed in jeopardy when these wastes are either dumped on the ground or placed in a dumpster. Fires, vapors, and other serious hazards are potentially created for your employees, curious children who may decide to investigate the contents of your dumpster, and solid waste disposal workers who handle your wastes.

In addition to the environmental and public health and safety issues, there is administrative enforcement which various regulatory agencies can initiate. Costly cleanup will be required when contamination is found in the environment. Additionally, regulatory agencies will seek recovery of investigative costs and penalties of up to \$25,000 per day, per violation from you as a responsible party. The potential for criminal charges also exists—jail, corrective actions, costs, and fines are all possible outcomes of your case.

## Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County

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# THE FACTS ABOUT HAZARDOUS WASTE



## What a Business needs to know to properly handle hazardous waste in Hillsborough County:

### What is the purpose of the Hazardous Waste Surcharge on my occupational License?

The Florida State Legislature requires all counties to implement a program called the “Small Quantity Generator” (SQG) Assessment, Notification, and Verification Program. The Legislature established a mechanism by which counties may assess up to \$50 per occupational license in order to fund this program. The goal of the program is ‘protection of the environment by helping businesses understand and comply with the hazardous waste regulations’. The primary functions of the program are identification, notification, and on-site verification of all businesses that are **POTENTIAL** generators of hazardous waste. In Hillsborough County, the Environmental Protection Commission is charged with this responsibility. This program involves on-site inspections, during which the business is informed of the hazardous waste regulations and advised to make operational and compliance corrections.

### What is hazardous waste?

The federal hazardous waste regulations, as detailed in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), enacted by the US Environmental Protection Agency and adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) through Chapter 62-730, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), define a waste as hazardous if:

1. It exhibits one of four characteristics per RCRA (40 CFR Part 261.20):
  - ◆ **Ignitability**—Flashpoint <140°
  - ◆ **Corrosivity**—pH ≤2.0 or ≥12.5
  - ◆ **Reactivity**—Explosive, extremely unstable, violently reacts with water, etc.
  - ◆ **Toxicity**—If sampled using TCLP laboratory analysis, would fail for one or more of 40 toxic contaminants

### OR

2. It is listed hazardous waste per RCRA (40 CFR Part 261.30)

### What are some examples of hazardous wastes?

Paint thinner, waste paint, paint booth filters, parts washer, waste antifreeze, spent acid or alkaline cleaners, absorbents used to pick up spills, waste ink, rags with ink or listed solvents on them, cleaning solvents, pesticide wastes, dry cleaning filters and spent perchloroethylene, plating wastes, photographic wastes, and many others.

### If I generate hazardous waste at my business, how do I properly store and dispose of it?

Regardless of the amount of hazardous waste that you generate, you **MUST** become familiar with what the hazardous waste regulations (RCRA) require you to do. Depending on the amount of hazardous waste you generate, there are different requirements you must follow. Of course, the more you generate, the more comprehensive the requirements become. All generators of hazardous waste are to manage their wastes in one or more of the following ways:

- ◆ Recycle or reuse the waste on-site or off-site; the Southern Waste Information Exchange (SWIX) acts as an information and referral service to industry and commerce concerning the reuse of waste materials. SWIX can be reached at 1-800-441-7949 or [www.swix.ws](http://www.swix.ws)
- ◆ Store the waste according to State regulations defined in Chapter 62-730, F.A.C.
- ◆ Ship the waste to a permitted hazardous waste management facility.
- ◆ Render the waste non-hazardous on-site (be aware that this may require a FDEP permit)

## The best option is to reduce or eliminate the amount of hazardous waste you generate.

For free, non-regulatory, confidential assistance, contact EPC’s Pollution Prevention Program (P2) Coordinator at 813-627-2600 or at [P2@epchc.org](mailto:P2@epchc.org)

### Can I dispose of hazardous waste in my dumpster?

**NO!!!** RCRA and other regulations related to waste management facilities (i.e. incinerators and landfills) prohibit businesses from disposing of any hazardous waste in their normal waste stream. **THIS MEANS THAT YOU CANNOT DISPOSE OF YOUR HAZARDOUS WASTE IN YOUR DUMPSTER.**

Therefore, you must first determine which utility handles your dumpster (see the utility offices listed below) and then contact them to find out what types of wastes will be approved for disposal at their solid waste facilities. It is advised that you keep any written approvals they may issue you on file so you can readily provide them if they are requested during an inspection.

Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Dept.: 813-272-5680

City of Tampa Office of Environmental Coordination: 813-348-1157

City of Plant City Sanitation: 813-757-9208

City of Temple Terrace Public Works: 813-989-7170