

Best Management Practices for N.H. Solid Waste Facilities

Universal Waste

Universal Waste is a category of regulated Hazardous Waste comprised of certain widely produced items and materials that are routinely discarded by households and businesses. Due to their less risky nature, they can be handled under relaxed provisions of the Hazardous Waste Rules, referred to as the Universal Waste Rules.

In New Hampshire, the list of Universal Waste includes:

- **Antifreeze** used in internal combustion engine cooling systems, which can become contaminated with harmful gasoline constituents and heavy metals such as lead, chromium and cadmium. Refer to the Antifreeze BMP Guidance Sheet for additional information.
- Certain types of **Batteries**, including rechargeable nickel-cadmium, small sealed lead-acid, metal hydride and lead-acid vehicle batteries. Refer to the Battery BMP Guidance Sheet for additional information.
- **Cathode ray tubes (CRTs)**, which are the glass video display units found in non-flat screen color televisions and computer monitors. CRTs contain lead in the tube, neck and enclosed glass seal, which is harmful to human health if it is released to the environment. For that reason, and the fact that CRTs take up a lot of landfill capacity, they are banned from disposal in N.H. landfills and incinerators.
- **Fluorescent lamps and other Mercury-Containing Devices**, including thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs or lamps, which because they contain mercury that can build up in living tissue and cause serious health problems, cannot be disposed of in N.H. landfills or incinerators. Refer to the Mercury-Containing Devices BMP Guidance Sheet for additional information.
- Certain **Pesticides**, including recalled and suspended/canceled pesticides regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). These are not covered here. Instead, contact the N.H. Department of Agriculture, Division of Pesticide Control at (603) 271-3550 for technical assistance.

Did You Know?

- You do not need a permit to handle Universal Waste at your facility. However, you do need to follow the Universal Waste Rules.
- Some vendors and stores will collect Universal Waste from consumers. Let your residents know which ones do this in your community.



CRTs stored pending recycling.

No permits are required to collect and handle Universal Waste, but you must follow the Universal Waste Rules. A short summary of those requirements is provided in the below listed BMPs. However, if you manage Universal Waste at your solid waste facility, you should contact the NHDES to be certain you have all of the information needed to do things properly.

Best Management Practices for all Universal Waste, regardless of type

- Notify NHDES Solid Waste Bureau that you are handling Universal Waste at your facility and update your Operating Plan.

- If you store more than 11,000 pounds of Universal Waste (other than batteries) at your facility, also submit a completed "Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity Form" to NHDES and you must comply with the additional requirements for being a "Large Quantity Universal Waste Handler."
- Train facility operators to properly handle Universal Waste according to these BMPs and the Universal Waste Rules.
- Label containers of Universal Waste with the words "Universal Waste" or "Waste" or "Used", followed by the specific type of waste in the container, for example "Universal Waste – Antifreeze" or "Waste Antifreeze" or "Used Antifreeze."
- Keep track of how long the waste has been in the container by dating the container or keeping an inventory.
- Keep containers closed when not adding or removing waste.
- Ship the waste to an authorized "destination facility" or other handler within one year.
- If stored outside, cover the containers to keep precipitation out. Also, if you put the containers inside secondary containment, it will be easier to clean up spills or releases if they happen.
- Clean up spills and releases immediately, within 24 hours. Contact the local fire department or emergency response team plus NHDES if the release goes into a storm drain, sewer, onto the land or into the air, groundwater or surface water, or otherwise poses a threat to human health or the environment.
- Use a Bill-of-Lading when shipping universal waste and follow applicable federal Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements for shipping hazardous materials.
- Keep records documenting your Universal Waste storage, shipment, personnel training and spill response activities.

Additional BMPs for specific types of Universal Waste

- For **Antifreeze**, follow the BMPs in the Antifreeze BMP Guidance Sheet
- For **Universal Waste Batteries**, follow the applicable BMPs in the Battery BMP Guidance Sheet.
- For **Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)**:
 - > Do not intentionally break CRTs. Only specially equipped and trained Universal Waste Handlers are allowed to intentionally break or shred CRTs.
 - > Put broken or damaged CRTs inside a closed, leak tight container.
- For **Fluorescent lamps** and other **Mercury-Containing Devices**, follow the BMPs in the Mercury-Containing Devices BMP Guidance Sheet.

NO!



Fluorescent bulbs or lamps improperly stored. This is an accident waiting to happen!

YES!



This CRT storage area is protected from weather and properly signed. CRT units are properly contained, ready for transport.

For additional information, contact:
 Solid Waste Management Bureau
 N.H. Department of Environmental Services
 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095
 (603) 271-2925 fax: (603) 271-2456
solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov

