Business Services Overview

Safe Hazardous Waste Management is Good Business

Most businesses generate some type of hazardous waste. As a business, it's your responsibility to safely manage your hazardous waste so it doesn't harm your workers, community, or the environment.

Thankfully, small businesses in King County have access to resources to help safely manage hazardous waste. From customized advice for your unique business needs to waste disposal services, the Business Services Team (BST) can help. Even better, all these services are funded through your utility bill, so they are available at no extra cost.

What is Hazardous Waste?

Hazardous Waste is waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment. It is generated from many sources, ranging from industrial manufacturing process wastes to batteries and may come in many forms, including liquids, solids, gases, and sludges.

—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Hazardous Waste Management Program

How can we help your business? Call 206-296-4692 or visit **kingcountyhazwasteWA.gov**

Business Services Overview

On-Site Consultations

Businesses can schedule an on-site consultation to receive customized recommendations from hazardous waste specialists. Following these recommendations may reduce your business's liability and create a safer workplace.

And while not a regulatory agency, the Business Services Team (BST) serves as a comprehensive resource on how to comply with existing hazardous waste regulations.

During your on-site consultation, the BST will help you:

- Find the best and most cost-effective way to manage your business's hazardous materials and waste.
- Find safer alternatives to hazardous products.
- Learn which hazardous waste regulations apply to your business.
- Learn Best Management Practices (BMPs) for managing hazardous materials and wastes.
- Create a spill prevention plan that works best for your business.
- Learn how to receive cash back for environmental improvements or disposal expenses.
- Learn how to maintain your SQG status or potentially become an SQG business.

To schedule your free on-site consultation, call the Haz Waste Helpline at 206-296-4692.

Who is eligible?

Small quantity generators (SQGs) businesses of hazardous waste in King County are eligible for services. Businesses that wish to attain SQG status are also potentially eligible. An SQG business is one that:

- Produces less than 220 pounds (about 25 gallons) of hazardous waste per month.
- Produces less than 2.2 pounds (a quart) of acutely hazardous waste per month.
- Stores less than 2,200 pounds (about four 55 gallon drums) of hazardous waste.

Spill Prevention and Management

Spill Prevention

No business wants to deal with a spill. And when the spilled materials are hazardous, you can run into higher clean-up costs, possible long-term liability, worker safety issues, and other problems.

To help prevent spills, we recommend that you have a spill kit on-hand and set up an accumulation area—a special area set aside for storing hazardous materials and waste. In your accumulation area, try to:

- Restrict accumulation area access to a few well-trained people who understand health, safety, and waste management regulations.
- Keep wastes away from traffic patterns.
- Store hazardous materials away from drains and bay doors to prevent spills to the outside environment.
- Cover and secure items stored outside.
- Store hazardous materials according to compatibility.
- Post a spill plan that includes emergency phone numbers in case of spills or accidents.
- Store items on an impermeable surface, not on dirt or gravel areas.

Containers, drums, or above ground storage tanks containing hazardous materials should be put into secondary containment to catch possible spills.

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Hazardous Waste Management Program

Spill Management

To assist you with spill prevention and management, the Business Services Team (BST) can meet with you to:

- Create a spill management plan.
- Provide a spill kit at no extra charge.
- Train your employees in spill prevention and response.

Make the Call

We can provide spill management materials and tools that work best for your specific business, at no cost to you.

Give us a call at 206-296-4692.

Hazardous Waste Transportation and Disposal

Disposing of Hazardous Waste

Small quantity generators (SQGs) of hazardous waste in King County can visit our hazardous waste disposal sites a maximum of four times per year.

Follow these five steps for safe disposal:

- **Identify & gather items.** If the label includes words *danger*, *poison*, *warning*, or *caution*, it's hazardous waste.
- **Find a convenient disposal location.** Find the location closest to you at ***kingcountyhazwasteWA.gov***.
- **Read the requirements to dispose at a Haz Waste facility.** Go to ***kingcountyhazwasteWA.gov*** to learn more before completing the business disposal form.
- **Complete the business disposal form online prior to drop off.** Print two copies and bring them with you to the drop-off location.
- **Prep for disposal.** Keep items in original containers whenever possible, label any unmarked products, and secure items so they won't tip or leak. Unlabeled products are not accepted.
- **Drop off.** Bring your items to the designated drop-off location. Owners must unload their own vehicles, except at the Auburn Wastemobile and traveling Wastemobile locations.

Reduce Waste

The best way to deal with hazardous waste is to not produce it, or to produce less of it. A business may be able to eliminate hazardous waste entirely, or become an SQG, by doing the following:

- Not using hazardous materials.
- Refusing unneeded vendor samples.
- Storing wastes separately to avoid contamination.
- Avoiding chlorinated solvents.
- Offering excess material to other businesses through the Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX).

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Hazardous Waste Management Program

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Transporting Hazardous Waste

Proper handling and transporting of hazardous waste can reduce the possibility of accidental spills. When bringing hazardous waste to disposal sites, take the following precautions:

- Don't mix or combine products.
- Keep products in original containers whenever possible.
- Label products that are not marked or in original containers.
- Secure products so they can't tip over and/or leak.
- Transport similar containers in cardboard boxes NOT garbage bags/bins, etc.
- Secure the load in the vehicle or trailer. Vehicles arriving at transfer stations in King County with unsecured loads can be charged a fee.
- Store products away from the passenger compartment.

Incentives and Promotional Opportunities

Eligible businesses can be rewarded, through incentives and recognition, for being responsible stewards of hazardous waste. We can help walk you through your options and identify the incentive programs that are right for you.

Voucher Incentive Program

The Hazardous Waste Management Program will reimburse your business up to $599 when you make changes that protect workers or the environment from hazardous product use, storage, or disposal. To be eligible, your business must be located in King County and be a Small Quantity Generator (SQG) of hazardous waste.

Reimbursement is available for lab testing, ventilation improvement, disposal and recycling, process changes and equipment to reduce hazardous waste generation, and protective equipment for workers.

Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX)

The Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) is a free listing service that helps your business locate useful materials and give away or sell surplus materials and hazardous products. Use IMEX to save on disposal and purchase costs, while helping the community conserve energy, resources, and landfill space.

For more information, contact IMEX at 206-296-4692.

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HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Call 206-296-4692, Monday—Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to schedule an on-site consultation.
2. Business Services staff will provide consultation, suggest improvements, and issue you a voucher.
3. Make the recommended improvements and submit the voucher with receipts attached.
4. On approval, you will receive reimbursement for 75% of the costs, up to $599, for making recommended improvements.

Hazardous Waste Management Program

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Incentives and Promotional Opportunities

EnviroStars

EnviroStars offers resources and incentives to businesses who take action to protect health and the environment. As an EnviroStars business, you'll learn to operate more efficiently, strengthen your bottom line, improve employee health and productivity, and gain recognition for environmental and community leadership.

EnviroStars promotes participating businesses through regional advertisements, on-site signage, and inclusion in an online directory.

To learn more visit ***EnviroStars.org***.

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