

UNIVERSAL WASTE

Universal Wastes are wastes that contain hazardous materials such as mercury, lead, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). Because of the health and environmental risks involved. Each product categorized as a Universal Waste contains one or more hazardous constituents. When these products are broken, landfilled or incinerated, the toxic components are released to the air, water and land. In our environment, they pose health risks that persist over time. Children and other critical populations, like nursing mothers, are especially vulnerable.

Recycling of Universal Waste helps to reduce the amount of toxic substances going to trash incinerators and landfills.

- ◆ Under the rules, Universal Wastes must be segregated so that most of their hazardous constituents can be recovered through recycling. The one exception is PCB ballasts; these are not recycled, but must be sent for disposal according to a different set of regulations (the Hazardous Waste Management Rules).
- ◆ Universal Waste must be properly packaged, labeled and stored in a secure area to control access and prevent accidental breakage. In addition, no entity other than an authorized hazardous waste recycling facility can intentionally break cathode ray tubes or fluorescent lamps.
- ◆ You can store universal wastes for 365 day or, 90 days from filling a container, whichever is longer.
- ◆ Generators of 200 or less items of universal waste are small quantity universal waste generators. Generators accumulating more than 200 items of Universal Waste at any one time or in any given month must provide notification to DEP. When determining the total number, all types of Universal Waste are added together.
- ◆ Employees and contractors who handle Universal Wastes must receive training to ensure that they can keep themselves safe and properly manage the wastes.
- ◆ Waste shipments must be tracked on appropriate paper work.
- ◆ Transporters must meet specific requirements before they can handle universal wastes.
- ◆ Municipal solid waste facility can accept Universal Waste if they are properly set up to handle such waste in a special storage area. If so, you would then self transport the waste to the local transfer station and complete or make sure the transfer attendant completes the incoming waste log at the transfer facility.