

Selecting a Hazardous Waste Receiver/Processor Fact Sheet

Hazardous Waste Management in BC

Hazardous wastes are those wastes which, due to their nature and quantity, are potentially hazardous to human health and/or the environment and require special treatment and disposal technologies to eliminate or reduce the hazard.

Choose your hazardous waste receiver/processor carefully. You are responsible for any waste you generate until it is legally and properly received at an **authorized** facility. Improper disposal of hazardous waste can retain an unending liability to the individuals and the generating, transportation and receiver/processor companies involved.

Selection Factors

Here are a few things you should do when selecting a hazardous waste receiver/processor:

- Ensure your waste has been properly classified, either through characterization by a qualified consultant or environmental testing laboratory, or by reviewing the process generating the waste along with the original raw materials used in the process.
- Ensure the hazardous wastes to be transported and managed are put in the care of companies that are capable of appropriately managing the wastes. This is of particular importance if the hazardous wastes are to be taken outside of BC for final disposition.
- Find out if the hazardous waste receiver/processor has carried out any facility audits for compliance issues. Many waste receivers/processors are required to submit audit reports to the Ministry of Environment; ask the receiver/processor for a copy of the most recent audit reports. Most competent waste receiver/processors arrange third party audits at their facilities and are willing to share and discuss the results with their potential clients.
- Get references from business colleagues who have used the specific hazardous waste receiver/processors you are considering.
- Contact your industry's trade associations, as they might have a file on companies that transport or receive/process hazardous waste.
- Phone the Better Business Bureau or Chamber of Commerce in your area and in the area where the receiver/processor is located. Get details of any complaints registered against specific receiver/processors.

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- Find out if the hazardous waste receiver/processor has the appropriate authorization to manage your hazardous waste(s). Authorized receivers/processors are required to have a facility registration number (different from a BCG #) and an approved operational plan as required by the **Hazardous Waste Regulation**.
- Check with the Western Canadian Auditing Roundtable (WCAR) at www.wcar.org to see if a Waste Facility Environmental Review has been completed on behalf of other waste generators for the facility that you are considering for the management of your waste.
- Ensure that the processing, treatment or disposal methods proposed by companies are the appropriate and approved technology for your wastes. While cost should be a factor, compliance and long term liability prevention should be stronger considerations in the selection of a hazardous waste receiver/processor. The receiver/processor should be willing to provide a letter confirming how and when the hazardous waste was managed at the location named in the letter and that the management complied with all relevant regulatory requirements.
- Investigate the financial stability of the receiver/processor and also ensure that where required, financial security such as a letter of credit has been issued to the BC Ministry of Environment.
- Check what insurance coverage the receiver/processor has and review their environmental impairment liability, general liability and vehicle insurance coverage (if applicable).
- Check the Health and Safety record of the receiver/processor and request a current WCB Clearance Letter.

If you are unsure if a particular waste is hazardous, you should retain the services of a qualified hazardous waste consultant, or contact a reputable hazardous waste management company for advice.

If the companies you choose to manage your waste do not comply with the requirements of the **Environmental Management Act** and its regulations and are charged with a violation while managing your wastes, you as the generator may also be held liable.

For general information on the regulation of hazardous wastes generated in BC, responsibilities of waste generators and guidelines on selecting a transporter, see fact sheets: **General Information, Generators of Hazardous Waste** and/or **Selecting a Hazardous Waste Transporter**

For Further Information:

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Need More Information?

Contact the nearest regional office of the BC Ministry of Environment. A list of regional offices can be found at <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/regops/contacts.html>

Or you can find your nearest Ministry of the Environment office by phone.

Victoria: (250) 387-6121

Vancouver: (604) 660-2421

Elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867

Outside BC: (604) 660-2421

There are links to the relevant legislation, as well as other helpful information on the BC Ministry of Environment's Hazardous Wastes Homepage, <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/hazwaste/index.htm>

For more specific information please see the other fact sheets in this series

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- 007 Mechanical & Automotive Industries
- 008 Marine Industry
- 009 Forestry & Forest-Based Product Manufacturers
- 010 Mining, Metals & Metal Finishing
- 011 Oil, Gas & Chemical Manufacturing
- 012 Government & Institutional Generators

or visit Hazardous Waste BC at
<http://www.hazwastebc.com>