

# WHAT IS HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Anything that presents a serious risk to the **environment** or **public health** is considered Hazardous Waste. It may be a sludge, a liquid, a solid, or a contained gas. This kind of waste originates from commercial products like cleaning solutions that are not used, discarded materials, or manufacturing processes.

Hazardous waste is defined as having one or more of the following characteristics:

- 1 Ignitability:** refers to the ability of a substance to easily catch fire and burn. Examples include some used solvents, paints, and gasoline.
- 2 Corrosivity:** refers to the ability of a substance that can corrode or eat away at materials, like metal. This includes strong acids or bases, such as battery acid.
- 3 Reactivity:** refers to the ability of a substance that is unstable and can explode, or release toxic gases, when mixed with water or exposed to heat or pressure. Examples include certain batteries or explosives.
- 4 Toxicity:** refers to the ability of a substance to be harmful or fatal if swallowed or absorbed. When disposed of, toxic waste can contaminate groundwater. Examples include materials with high concentrations of heavy metals like lead or mercury and some pesticides.

## Common Examples of Hazardous Waste

- Latex paints, arts and crafts, solvents, and adhesives
- Pesticides and other garden chemicals
- Used motor oil, automotive fluids
- Batteries (car batteries, rechargeable batteries, etc.)
- Electronic waste (computers, TVs, cell phones, e-cigarettes)
- Fluorescent lamps and thermometers (due to mercury content)
- Some cleaning products, hand sanitizer, and used cooking oil

For more information about Hazardous Waste, please visit:  
[blackfeetenvironmental.com](http://blackfeetenvironmental.com) | [epa.gov](http://epa.gov) | [deq.mt.gov](http://deq.mt.gov)



**Catherine 'Katie' McLean**  
Hazardous Waste Program  
Coordinator  
(406) 338-7421  
[beo.hazwaste@gmail.com](mailto:beo.hazwaste@gmail.com)

