Domestic households

A guide to the Hazardous Waste Regulations

HWR01B, July 2013 – Version 1

Hazardous waste

Many of the products we use in our homes for cleaning, gardening, vehicle maintenance and even personal hygiene contain dangerous substances and are hazardous waste once discarded.

Common types of hazardous waste produced in the home are:

- Nickel-cadmium batteries
- Lead-acid batteries from vehicles
- Engine oil
- Oil filters
- Certain types of waste electrical and electronic equipment such as fridge freezers, TVs and monitors
- Oil and solvent based paints, varnishes and paint strippers
- Bleach and other cleaning products
- Fluorescent tubes and energy saving light bulbs
- Aerosols
- Asbestos contaminated building materials

The best way of managing hazardous waste is to try to avoid producing it. You can do this by:

- choosing alternative products that do not contain dangerous substances;
- using up all of the hazardous products that you have to avoid having to throw them away; and
- only buying what you need.

If you cannot avoid producing waste, the best option for it is recycling or recovery. If you put hazardous items in your general waste bin they may be disposed of in a landfill site. If your local household waste recycling centre or civic amenity site has facilities, we recommend that you separate hazardous waste from other types of waste and take it to your local site. This will ensure that it has the best chance of being recycled.

Asbestos must be carefully managed due to the health risks it poses; it must be disposed of in a controlled and safe manner. The best way to remove asbestos is to use a licensed contractor. Small amounts of asbestos however can be taken to certain household waste recycling centres. If you decide to deal with it yourself you should first visit the websites of:

- your local council, to find out what facilities are available in your area, and
- the Health and Safety Executive, for up to date advice on dealing with asbestos safely.

There is also information on the government website https://www.gov.uk/asbestos-in-home

Medicines, even though many are non-hazardous, should be segregated and taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal.
Responsibilities under the Hazardous Waste Regulations

Residents of domestic premises do not have any responsibilities under the Hazardous Waste Regulations.

If you are a contractor producing hazardous waste at, or collecting hazardous waste from, a domestic premises you have responsibilities as follows:

**Asbestos**

If a contractor produces waste asbestos at domestic premises, they are treated as the producer for the purposes of the regulations.

If the waste asbestos is produced by the householder themselves and a contractor is employed to collect it, then that contractor is treated as the producer.

In both cases, this means that the contractor must ensure that:

- the domestic premises is registered if more than 500 kg of asbestos is produced, and
- consignment notes are completed when the waste asbestos is removed

**Other hazardous waste**

Contractors working in domestic premises have a legal Duty of Care for any waste they produce in that premises.

This means that they should not put items of hazardous waste in the mixed domestic refuse, or mix them in with other wastes (for example in a skip of construction and demolition waste).

Hazardous waste should be segregated and removed from the domestic premises as a separate domestic fraction.

The contractor must ensure that any hazardous waste present is correctly classified and described on the accompanying documentation when they transfer it to any other party.

**Separated domestic fractions**

Where the householder (or contractor) has separated hazardous waste (other than asbestos) from normal mixed refuse it is a separated domestic fraction.

Contractors collecting or receiving this waste must not mix it with other waste, for example on the collection vehicle, contractor’s premises or at the civic amenity site.

However, there is no need to:

- register the domestic premises; or
- complete consignment notes when the waste is removed from the domestic premises

The place to which this waste is first taken (for example civic amenity site or contractor’s premises) is where the controls apply from. So a contractor receiving domestic hazardous waste should register their premises and consign out any such waste when it is removed from their site.