

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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UNIVERSAL WASTE HANDLING AND STORAGE (40 CFR Part 273)

1. All containers or accumulation areas should be labeled appropriately (i.e., Used Lamps, Used Batteries, etc.). Containers must be closed when not in use.
2. Universal Wastes may be accumulated for one year. The accumulation start date should appear on each container, or an inventory and bill of lading system should be used to prove accumulation does not exceed one year. Universal Wastes can only be transferred to another handler or a destination facility. Handlers are required to comply with Department of Transportation (DOT) rules applicable for shipping Universal Wastes.
3. Spills must be cleaned-up immediately and properly contained. An evaluation should be performed to determine if the spilled material is a hazardous waste. Lamps broken unintentionally may still be managed as Universal Waste, but must be packaged to prevent releases. If a broken lamp is mixed with other debris, a determination must be made as to whether or not the mixture is hazardous waste. Intentional crushing of hazardous waste lamps is considered treatment and may require a permit.
4. Employees should be trained in how to handle Universal Wastes.
5. Universal Wastes must be treated as hazardous waste unless they are recycled, or TCLP data indicates the amount of hazardous components is below regulatory limits.

TYPE OF UNIVERSAL WASTE	METHOD OF STORAGE
Mercury-Containing Lamps: Fluorescent, Metal Halide, Neon, Mercury Vapor	Used lamps should be placed in the original container or in such a way that they will not be broken until proper packaging can be obtained.
High Intensity Discharge Lamps (HID's)	Used HID lamps should be returned to the original containers or placed in the appropriately sized fiber drums. <u>HID's should be accumulated separately from other lamps.</u>
Mercury-Containing Equipment (MCE): Thermostats, Manometers, Barometers, Flow Meters, Mercury Light Switches, and certain regulators, gauges and relays. For a more complete list, go to http://elvsolutions.org/	Used MCE should be accumulated in a sealed UN-approved pail or drum. For information on storage and disposal of <u>automotive mercury switches</u> , contact the Waste Reduction and Abatement Program at EPD (404-362-2694).
Batteries: Sealed Lead-Acid Nickel-Cadmium Lithium Hydride Mercury Oxide Silver Oxide	Sealed lead-acid batteries should be stored on pallets with no stacking. Other batteries should be accumulated in UN-approved 5 gallon pails. One pail should be for Ni-Cad, Lithium and all non-mercury containing cells. Another pail should be used for mercury oxide, silver oxide, and all mercury-containing cells. All batteries must have terminals taped with electrical tape or placed in individual plastic bags. Packing material, such as vermiculite or Styrofoam, should not be used. <u>Forklift batteries should be placed on pallets (no stacking) and returned to the supplier.</u>

If you have questions or need a list of companies that handle Universal Wastes, contact the Georgia EPD Hazardous Waste Compliance Program at (404)657-8831.

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