

SSOW WD06 – Safe System of Work: Household Hazardous Wastes

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1. Activity

This safe system of work includes all staff involved in the Household Waste and Recycling Centre operation. It provides details and risks of typical hazardous waste types accepted at the facility.

2. Persons at Risk

- Household Waste and recycling centre staff
- Customers
- Waste Collection Contractors
- Emergency Services

3. Hazards

- Exposure to the Waste (Through direct contact, inhalation, ingestion, absorption etc.)
- Fire
- Explosion
- Damage to the ecosystem

4 Procedures

a) General Requirements

- The handling of hazardous waste will require the full range of PPE including eye protection and chemically resistant gloves.
- Staff should know and understand the COSHH hazard labels present on labelled chemicals.
- All cages used for the storage of Household Hazardous Waste should remain locked at all times.

- Customers using the site should inform the Recycling centre staff that they wish to dispose of hazardous waste. They should then be handled by staff wearing the full range of PPE.
- Should any of the hazardous waste deposited at site be leaking or fuming place the entire content into another larger container or bags before placing into the hazardous waste cage.
- Any hazardous waste found inside skips should be approached with caution and if necessary removed wearing full PPE including eye protection. Ref SSOW WD05.
- After handling any hazardous materials it is important that hands are washed. This is particularly important before using the toilet and eating.
- Monthly scheduled collections of Household Hazardous waste are made to ensure that quantities do not exceed permitted requirements. If the levels are high between scheduled collections advise the site manager who can arrange additional collections.
- Protect Hazardous Wastes from direct heat and naked flames as most types of these materials deposited at Recycling Centres can be flammable or explosive.
- The below sections deal with the storage and handling requirements of the most common types of Household Hazardous Waste accepted at the Recycling Centres:

b) Gas Cylinders

- All Gas cylinders are dangerous even if they contain only a trace amount of gas. Every effort should be made to ensure that they are handled carefully and cylinders should be carried by the rim or base and not moved whilst holding the nozzle.
- Gas Cylinders should not be rolled along the floor and when moving them every effort should be made not to jar or mistreat the item. Gas cylinders are covered by the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmosphere Regulations 2002 and no attempt should be made by site staff to release gas, dismantle or otherwise tamper with the cylinder.
- Gas cylinders must be taken to the storage area as soon as possible and be secured overnight to prevent vandalism. The gas cylinder store should be kept tidy, the cylinders stored upright, not stacked where possible and free from combustible material such as paper and cardboard.
- Gas cylinders are to be stored in an appropriate container marked as an Explosive Atmosphere and should remain locked and secure against access by unauthorised personnel.
- An inventory list should be maintained daily listing all the gas cylinders that are on site.

c) Vehicle and similar batteries

- Vehicle batteries contain sulphuric acid which is highly corrosive and may still spark or “weld” itself if shorted out across a metal terminus. Sparks are a source of ignition and fire can be caused if the items are not handled correctly.
- Before handling batteries staff should be familiar with the location of eye wash on site. Eye contact with the corrosive material within vehicle batteries can cause blindness and eye protection should always be worn. Metal bracelets and long necklaces and other conductive jewellery and clothing should be removed whilst handling these items. Full PPE should be worn when handling vehicle batteries including gloves.
- Should any vehicle batteries be damaged they should be double bagged in a thick polythene bag to prevent the release of corrosive liquid and any spills on site should be treated with the spill kits whilst wearing appropriate PPE.
- Vehicle Batteries must be stored within the plastic battery container. The lid must remain closed when not in use to prevent water ingress. No other waste should be kept within the battery container (including small domestic batteries).

d) Waste Oils

- Contact with waste oil can cause dermatitis and be a contributing factor in other occupational illnesses. It is necessary when handling waste oil to wear chemically resistant gloves and to avoid unnecessary contact with the substance. The area around the waste oil tank must be kept clean and free from oil and absorbent granules used to soak up any spills immediately.

e) Fluorescent tubes, cathode ray tubes and energy saving light bulbs.

- Fluorescent tubes must be handled with care and stored in the appropriate container ensuring that the tube does not protrude. In the event of a breakage, the tubes can release mercury which gives rise to a harmful vapour, a face mask should be worn and the spill cleared immediately.
- Cathode ray tubes contain small quantities of phosphorous and can be released if the cathode ray tube (CRT) within the television or monitor is broken. Phosphorous is a chemical which is hazardous to human health if inhaled or handled. When dealing with breakages from CRTs chemically resistant gloves must be worn.

f) Solvent based paints and adhesives

- Solvent based paints and adhesives are flammable and an irritant. When handling this waste, gloves should be worn.

g) Thinners, solvents and other flammable liquids

- Typically small quantities of these materials will be accepted on site in liquid form as white spirit and thinners in small bottles.

- No attempt should be made by site staff to bulk up flammable liquids into larger containers.
- The hazardous waste container should be checked for spills on a regular basis and any spills removed using the spill kit and must remain locked when not in use to prevent unauthorised access.

h) Garden Chemicals

- Garden chemicals usually comprise of Fertilisers and pesticides: Notice should be made to the COSHH Notice on the bottle or container before being accepted to indicate which container the waste should be stored in.
- The hazardous waste container should be checked for spills on a regular basis and any spills removed using the spill kit and must remain locked when not in use to prevent unauthorised access.

4. General Guidance

- From time to time waste deposited on site will be unidentifiable. If the waste is suspected to be hazardous in nature it should be treated as such, marked as unknown in origin. The waste should be stored within the Hazardous Waste Container on site
- Clinical Waste is not permitted for disposal at any of the HW&RC's, but it is possible that they may protrude from refuse sacks or just left on site. Sharps found should be placed in a sealed container and Waste Cleansing team notified so a collection can be made.

5. Personal Protective Equipment

- Chemically resistant gloves
- Ballistic Trousers
- Eye Protection
- Face Mask
- Rubber Aprons (if required)

6. Medical Requirements / Vaccinations

- Employees must always report to the Supervisor if he / she feels unwell after being exposed to a hazardous substance
- If employees handle clinical (infectious) waste they may be required to be immunised against Tetanus and Hepatitis B (this must be offered free of charge) – a specific COSHH assessment would be carried out on such waste

7. Training

- As with all Safe Systems of Work training will be provided in monthly Briefing sessions. Employees will be informed about all household hazardous waste

accepted at the recycling centre and will be aware of the hazard warning signs.

- Site Managers will ensure that employees, and agency staff, know the safe system of work before using, or being exposed to any hazardous substance, and will provide any necessary training. Are staff issued with relevant safe systems of work?

Related Documents	
	Reference:
Safe Systems of Work	
PPE	SSOW WD 05
Risk Assessments	
Hazardous Waste	WD26
Collection from Haz Waste Cage	WD27
Acceptance of Batteries	WD28
COSHH	WD44
HSE	
Working With Substances Hazardous to Health	www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg136.pdf