

Definition of Hazardous Waste:

RCRA defines two general categories of Hazardous Waste that are common to college campuses.

**Characteristic Hazardous Wastes**

The first category of hazardous waste requires the waste to exhibit a *hazardous characteristic* such as being corrosive or reactive. A waste exhibiting one or more of the following *characteristics* is considered a *Characteristic Hazardous Waste*.

Classification	Description	Examples	Waste Codes
Corrosive (Acids/Bases)	pH < 2 OR pH > 12.5	Toilet bowl and drain cleaners, lab and pool acids, rust removers, water treatment chemicals, etc.	D002
Ignitable	Flashpoint < 140F	Solvents, alcohol's, non-empty aerosol cans	D001
Reactive	Cyanides, reacts violently with air or water	Gunpowder, unstable chemicals (old ethers, perchloric or picric acid), reactive metals, some nitrogen compounds (including some fertilizers)	D003
Toxic: Test "representative sample"* to determine if waste will leach any of the listed compounds at levels above the thresholds set in 40 CFR 261.24.		Lead paint chips, photographic fixers, fluorescent lightbulbs, chromium-based corrosion inhibitor fluids, solder, pesticides containing arsenic, 2,4-D, Silvex, or Endrin, etc.	D004 - D043

**Listed Hazardous Wastes**

The second general category of RCRA Hazardous Wastes is even more specific. The chemical or constituents of the waste must actually be *listed* in the regulations to meet this definition. Thus, these wastes are considered *Listed Hazardous Wastes*.

Classification	Description	Examples	Waste Codes
Waste Solvents	See regulation for specific solvents and solvent mixtures	Automotive parts cleaners, methylene chloride, carbon tetrachloride, xylene, acetone, alcohol's used as solvents, etc.	F001 - F006
Waste chemicals	Listed outdated or unneeded products for which the listed chemical is the SOLE active ingredient.	Some outdated photographic products, some excess lab chemicals (alcohol's, solvents, aldehydes, acids, etc.), unused pesticides, etc.	U001 - U409
Acutely Hazardous Waste chemicals		Unused poisons (Strychnine, cyanides, arsenic, phosgene, etc.), unused pesticides (aldrin, nicotine, dieldrin, etc.), toxins, etc.	P001 - P205

Notes:

1. Wastes may exhibit multiple characteristics and may be both a Listed and Characteristic Waste.
2. Other waste codes exist. The full regulatory text and listings for hazardous waste identification can be found in 40 CFR 261.