HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

1. Types of Activities Regulated

A waste meets the definition of hazardous waste if it is included in an EPA list of specific hazardous wastes, demonstrates any of the characteristics of ignitability, corrosiveness, reactivity, or toxicity under standard test procedures, or is a mixture of any waste and one or more listed hazardous wastes. Hazardous wastes may only be transported, stored, treated, disposed of, or used for the purposes of resource conservation or recovery in a manner consistent with state and federal law. Hazardous wastes must be properly contained and labeled.

A permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required to construct or operate a hazardous waste management facility for the treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes.

Certain wastes are exempt from the regulations of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act: for information on these exempt wastes, contact the DEQ.

Statute: 75-10-401, et seq., MCA (Montana Hazardous Waste Act)
Rule: ARM 17.53.101, et seq.
Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau

2. Application Requirements

The permit application for a hazardous waste management facility is divided into two parts, A and B. Part A is a short standard form calling for general information that includes the name of the applicant and a description of the activities of the facility.

Part B is the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit application and requests specific technical information on how the facility proposes to meet the relevant regulatory requirements.

A permit may be issued for a period specified by the DEQ and is subject to either renewal or revocation depending on compliance with the permit’s provisions.

Statute: 75-10-406, MCA
3. **Permitting Procedures**

1) The DEQ may, in the event of an imminent and substantial danger to public health or the environment, issue a temporary emergency permit to any person for the treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste or to any facility to handle hazardous waste not covered by the existing facility permit.

2) The DEQ may grant permits to certain hazardous waste management facilities if the owner or operator already holds a license or permit from the DEQ pursuant to other state environmental statutes, or for an interim period, until final administrative action on a permit application is made.

3) If it is determined that an application for a certificate under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA) will result in the generation, transportation, storage, or disposal of hazardous wastes, the DEQ must conduct its review concurrently with the studies of air and water quality conducted under the provisions of the MFSA. See MAJOR FACILITY SITING, p. 51.

Statute: 75-10-405, 75-10-406, and 75-10-407, MCA

4. **Fees**

The DEQ assesses an application fee and a permit modification fee to defray the costs of processing applications for permits or permit modifications.

Statute: 75-10-405(1)(i), 75-10-432, and 75-10-433, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.53.112

5. **Criteria**

The DEQ may deny an application or impose conditions on a permit if the applicant, within the five years before the date of application, has a record of complaints and convictions for the violation of environmental protection laws. In making the decision to deny a permit or impose conditions, the DEQ will consider the number and severity of the violations, the culpability and cooperation of the applicant, and other factors.

Statute: 75-10-427, MCA
6. **Additional Information**

A. **Generators/Transporters**

Generators and transporters of hazardous waste must comply with state and federal reporting requirements, including the use of a manifest system for tracking the movement of all hazardous wastes.

Persons who generate hazardous waste, with certain exceptions, are required to maintain an annual generator registration and to pay a registration fee each year, in addition to obtaining an identification number.

Persons who transport hazardous wastes are required to notify the DEQ and to obtain an identification number. A hazardous waste transfer facility must also comply with regulations established by the DEQ.


B. **Variances**

A person who is a generator or transporter of hazardous wastes or who owns or operates a hazardous waste management facility may apply to the Montana Board of Environmental Review for a variance or partial variance from the application of or compliance with any requirement of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act or any rule adopted under the act.

Statute: 75-10-408, MCA

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**INCINERATORS - HAZARDOUS WASTE/BOILERS AND INDUSTRIAL FURNACES**

1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

A permit is required for a boiler and industrial furnace that burns hazardous waste or for a hazardous waste incinerator. The owner or operator must submit an application to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) prior to construction or operation. In addition, the applicant must obtain an air quality permit, or if applicable, an air quality permit modification from the DEQ prior to construction or operation (see AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36).

Statute: 75-10-401, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.53.801, *et seq.* (hazardous waste incinerators)
ARM 17.53.1001, *et seq.* (BIFs)

40 C.F.R. § 264, subpart O (hazardous waste incinerators)
40 C.F.R. § 266, subpart H (BIFs)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air Resources Management Bureau
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Montana Office, Helena

2. **Application Requirements**

The permit application is divided into two parts, A and B. Part A is a short standard form calling for general information which includes the name of the applicant and a description of the activities of the facility.

Part B is the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit application and requests specific technical information on how the facility proposes to meet the relevant regulatory requirements. Part B must also contain the *trial burn plan*, describing the engineering details of the system and outlining a plan for demonstrating compliance with performance standards and for establishing limits on certain operating conditions that will become part of the facility's permit.

- **Statute:** 75-10-405 and 75-10-406, MCA
- **Rule:** ARM 17.53.1201 and 17.53.1202

3. **Permitting Procedures**

1) The applicant must submit parts A and B of the application to the DEQ.

2) The DEQ conducts a completeness review of the application to determine that all required information and documents have been included in the application. If the application is incomplete, the agency issues a Notice of Deficiency (NOD). When the applicant has submitted all the required information and documentation, the DEQ will issue a notice of completeness.
3) The DEQ then conducts a technical review, analyzing the technical information submitted in the application to determine whether the facility will meet the appropriate requirements. Additional NODs may be issued.

4) The DEQ will then issue a draft permit or a notice of denial.

5) Public notice is given and a public hearing is held.

6) The DEQ then makes a final decision and issues a final permit. The department must respond to public comments on the final permit and must indicate where changes to the draft permit have been made.

7) If applicable, appeals are made. The facility owner/operator may challenge the denial of a permit or a condition of a permit.

4. **Fees**

The DEQ assesses an application fee and a permit modification fee to defray the costs of processing applications for permits or permit modifications.

Statute: 75-10-405(1)(i), 75-10-432 and 75-10-433, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.53.112

5. **Additional Information**

**Commercial Medical Waste or Hazardous Waste Incinerators**

See AIR QUALITY PERMITS, 6. C., p. 40.

**INFECTIOUS WASTE**

1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

Persons who are licensed by a board or department to operate a health care facility or to engage in a related profession or occupation must comply with the board or department rules for generating, storing, or transporting infectious waste. The associated boards and departments must adopt rules and may impose fees to pay for the cost of regulation.

Infectious waste must be separated from other waste at the source. It must be stored, transported, and disposed of in a container marked with the biohazard warning. Infectious
waste other than sharps (items or implements that are capable of puncturing or cutting human skin) must be contained in closed, moisture-proof plastic bags that will not tear or burst under normal conditions of handling and use. Sharps must be stored, transported, and disposed of in leak-proof, rigid, puncture resistant containers that stay closed.

Transporters of infectious waste must register annually with DEQ and submit a transportation and management plan to ensure waste is hauled and stored according to specific standards.

All infectious waste must arrive at the treatment facility with the containers intact and lids securely in place. Prior to final disposal, the infectious waste must be rendered sterile by chemical or steam sterilization, incineration, or other DEQ approved techniques. Liquid or semi-solid infectious wastes, after having been chemically sterilized, may be disposed of in municipal sanitary sewers that convey wastes to a secondary treatment plant.

All infectious waste containers that have been autoclaved must be marked with heat-sensitive tape or labels so that it is visually apparent that the wastes have been sterilized. If chemical or other sterilization techniques have been used the containers must be labeled appropriately.

Statute: 75-10-1005 and 75-10-1006, MCA


Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

METHAMPHETAMINE LABS - CLEANUP OF CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS

1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has the authority to establish minimum standards for the training and certification of clandestine methamphetamine laboratory (CML) cleanup contractors who are to perform assessment or remediation of inhabitable property contaminated by precursors of meth manufacture or meth residues.
If a property owner chooses to decontaminate a CML under the CML program, the property owner must use certified CML contractors.

Statute: 75-10-1304, MCA
Rule: ARM 17.74.507-17.74.512, 17.74.517, and 17.74.518
Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau

2. Certification Requirements

A person seeking certification as a CML contractor must submit a properly completed application form, along with a fee, to the DEQ. The applicant must also complete a CML training course approved by the DEQ and provide evidence of successful completion of Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training (29 C.F.R. 1910.120).

Certification of CML contractors is valid for two years from the date of issuance.

Statute: 75-10-1304, MCA
Rule: ARM 17.74.507-17.74.510, 17.74.517, and 17.74.518

3. Fees

All persons seeking certification or certification renewal for CML contractor must submit fees with their certification applications. Fees are nonrefundable and must be in the form of check or money order made payable to the DEQ.

The fee to be submitted with each initial, renewal or reciprocal CML contractor application is $500.

Statute: 75-10-1304, MCA
Rule: ARM 17.74.518
MOTOR VEHICLE WRECKING FACILITIES

1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

An annual license is required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to operate a motor vehicle wrecking facility. Possession at a single location of four or more junk vehicles is presumptive evidence that the possessor is operating a motor vehicle wrecking facility. One or more junk vehicles at a single location must be shielded from public view.

Statute: 75-10-502, 75-10-505, and 75-10-511, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.201, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau

2. **Application Requirements**

An application for a license to operate or maintain a private wrecking facility or a county program junk vehicle graveyard can be obtained from the DEQ and must include certification from the appropriate local government office that the proposed facility does not violate local zoning ordinances. The DEQ will consider the effect of the proposed facility on adjoining landowners and land uses and will inspect the property before issuing a license. Rules regarding what materials may be used for shielding the facility from public view must be met. The license expires on December 31 of the year issued.

Statute: 75-10-504, 75-10-511, and 75-10-516, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.201-17.50.203

3. **Permitting Procedures**

1) The DEQ will continue to process an application that the local government has certified as complying with local zoning ordinances. Applications certifying that the facility does not comply are denied. If the local government makes no statement, then the DEQ will make its own determination.

2) The DEQ may deny, suspend, or revoke a motor vehicle wrecking facility’s license for reasons of theft, forgery, omission, fraud, or rule violation.
3) The DEQ's decision to deny, suspend, or revoke a license may be appealed by the applicant to the Board of Environmental Review within 30 days of the decision.

Statute: 75-10-514 and 75-10-515, MCA
Rule: ARM 17.50.201 and 17.50.206

4. **Fees**

The DEQ requires an annual fee of $100 for a motor vehicle wrecking facility license.

Statute: 75-10-511, MCA

5. **Additional Information**

The owner of a motor vehicle wrecking facility must keep a record of every junk vehicle obtained and mail a quarterly report to the Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, with the required information.

Statute: 75-10-512, MCA
Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

**RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL**

1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

Disposal of a *large quantity* of radioactive material, byproduct material, and special nuclear material is prohibited in Montana. The prohibition includes nuclear fuels, nuclear power plant wastes, and uranium or thorium mill tailings. Certain special use materials (educational, scientific, research, and medical, etc.) are exempt from this prohibition.

Statute: 50-79-101 and 50-79-302, MCA (Montana Nuclear Regulation Act)
Contact: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Quality Assurance Division
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL (NONHAZARDOUS)

1. Types of Activities Regulated

A license is required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the disposal of solid waste and for the operation of a solid waste management system. In certain circumstances, the on-site disposal of solid wastes from a person’s household or farm and certain categories of on-site industrial waste disposal operations are excluded from this licensing requirement. Sites are approved and licensed by the DEQ and validated by local health officials. Solid waste means all putrescible and nonputrescible wastes, including but not limited to garbage; rubbish; refuse; ashes; sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply treatment plants or air pollution control facilities; construction and demolition wastes; dead animals; discarded home and industrial appliances; and wood products or byproducts and inert materials. Solid waste does not mean municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining wastes, slash and forest debris regulated by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, or marketable wood byproducts.

Statute: 75-10-201, et seq., MCA (Solid Waste Management Act)


Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau

2. Application Requirements

Prior to disposing of solid waste or operating a solid waste management system or expanding the boundary of an existing system, a person must submit a license application to the DEQ on department-supplied forms. Details about the proposed facility and surrounding waterways; site and landfill design plans; geological, hydrological, and soil information; operation and maintenance, and closure plans; maps; a demonstration project, if applicable; and other information described in department rules or necessary to protect human health are required.

Statute: 75-10-221, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.508, 17.50.509, 17.50.1001-17.50.1009, and 17.50.1201-17.50.1205
3. Licensing Procedures

1) The DEQ has 60 days to evaluate an application for completeness and conduct public scoping, if necessary. The department also notifies the health officer in the county of the proposed solid waste system. If the application is incomplete, the DEQ notifies the applicant within 15 days after the initial review is completed. If the DEQ has not received the necessary additional information within 90 days after the applicant has been notified, a new application and application fee are required.

2) Once the application is complete, the DEQ has 90 days to conduct an Environmental Assessment or 180 days if an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130). The public hearing requirements of the DEQ's MEPA administrative rules apply.

3) After the comment period has ended, the DEQ makes its final decision and notifies the applicant, the local health officer, and other interested persons.

4) If the department decides to issue the license, the local health officer has 15 days after receiving written notice to make a final decision on whether the license will be validated. If the local health officer refuses to validate the license based upon a finding that the requirements of the solid waste management laws and rules cannot be met, the officer sends written notice to the applicant, the DEQ, and any other interested person.

5) The applicant or any person aggrieved by the decision of the DEQ or the local health officer may appeal the decision to the Board of Environmental Review within 30 days after receiving written notice of the decision. The hearing before the board must be held under the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act (see MAPA, p. 129).

Statute: 75-10-222 through 75-10-224, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.4.610, 17.4.620, 17.4.636, 17.50.513, and 17.50.514

4. Fees

The DEQ charges a license application fee for any new solid waste management facility or for a substantial change to an existing facility. The department also charges an annual license renewal fee to cover the costs of annual renewals and inspections. Disposal facilities pay a base fee for the type and size of the facility and an annual per-ton fee on wastes received by the facility. This disposal fee is set at 40 cents per ton for in-state waste
and an additional 27 cents for out-of-state waste. All fees are deposited into an earmarked revenue account and are used to support a portion of the costs of the DEQ's solid waste program.

Statute: 75-10-115, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.410, 17.50.411, 17.50.415, and 17.50.416

5. Additional Information

A. Variances

A person may apply to the Board of Environmental Review for a variance from the rules issued pursuant to the Montana Solid Waste Management Act. The Board may grant a variance if it finds that 1) failure to comply with the rules does not result in a danger to public health or safety, or 2) compliance with the rules would produce hardship to the applicant without producing benefits to the public health and safety that outweigh the hardship.

Statute: 75-10-206, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.602, 17.50.603, 17.50.605, 17.50.606, and 17.50.609-17.50.611

B. Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Privies

See SEPTIC TANKS, CESSPOOLS AND PRIVIES, p. 192.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

TANK INSTALLERS AND INSPECTORS

1. Types of Activities Regulated

A valid Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) license is required for all individuals who install, close, inspect or oversee the installation, closure, compliance, or inspection of underground storage tanks (UST). Within 30 days of completion of a UST system activity, the licensee must submit a completed checklist and a copy of the signed permit to the department and to the owner or operator of the tank. A permit is required from the DEQ for most tank work on most UST systems (see exceptions on the following page). All active UST facilities must have a compliance inspection conducted by a DEQ-licensed compliance inspector every three years.
2. **License Application Requirements**

An applicant for a license must be at least 18 years of age, submit a license application on a form provided by the DEQ, pass the licensing examination, and pay the required fee.

**Statute:** 75-11-210, MCA

**Rule:** ARM 17.56.1401, *et seq.*

3. **Fees**

The license application and examination fee is $100 and the annual renewal fee is $100.

**Rule:** ARM 17.56.1404

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**TANK OWNERS AND OPERATORS**

1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

   A. **Tank Registration and Standards**

   Owners and operators of underground storage tanks (USTs) and aboveground storage tanks with underground lines must register each tank with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). UST registration fees are assessed annually even for tanks that are out of service. Tank systems must meet certain standards for construction and design, corrosion protection, and leak detection.
B. Permits for Tank Installations, Modifications, Repairs or Closures

The DEQ requires permits for tank or piping installations or closures, modifications, or repairs and for the installation of cathodic protection (to prevent corrosion). See also TANK INSTALLERS AND INSPECTORS, p. 166.

C. Operating Permit

An owner or operator of a UST may not place a regulated substance in or otherwise operate a tank unless the owner or operator has a current DEQ operating permit.

D. Exceptions

Certain underground tanks are not included in the definition of underground storage tanks and the provisions of the Montana Underground Storage Tank Act do not apply. These include: noncommercial motor fuel tanks and heating oil tanks and their underground piping provided that 1) they are located at farms or residences, 2) they have a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less, and 3) they were installed prior to April 27, 1995.

E. Exemptions

Certain other underground tanks are included in the definition of underground storage tanks but are exempted from some subchapters of Montana’s UST regulations. These exemptions are detailed in ARM 17.56.102.


Rule: ARM 17.56.101, et seq. and 17.56.803(15)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY Permitting and Compliance Division Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau
2. **Application Requirements**

   A. **Permits for Tank Installations, Modifications, Repairs or Closures**

   Permit applications must be submitted at least 30 days before beginning any tank work. In the event of an emergency requiring immediate UST system work, the DEQ may issue an emergency permit valid for no more than 10 days.

   B. **Operating Permit**

   In order to obtain an operating permit, the owner or operator of a UST system must file with the DEQ an inspection report signed by a licensed inspector that certifies that the operation and maintenance of the tank comply with relevant DEQ laws and rules.

   Rule: ARM 17.56.308 and 17.56.1301, *et seq.*

3. **Installation, Operation and Closure Requirements**

   A. **Permits for Tank Installations, Modifications, Repairs or Closures**

   Tank installations or closures must either be completed by a person licensed for UST work, or if completed by the owner or operator, then the work must be inspected by a licensed inspector. For tank installations, the licensee, owner, or operator must certify that the tank and piping are properly installed according to industry standards, that the tank and piping are protected from corrosion, that the system will be monitored to detect a release within a 30 day period, and that the tank is equipped with devices that prevent spills and overfills. A licensee, owner or operator must notify the DEQ of a suspected or actual leak within 24 hours of discovery. The owner or operator must retain proof of financial responsibility on file guaranteeing that cleanup costs can be paid should a tank leak occur. For tank closures, an environmental site assessment must be conducted that includes the collection and analysis of soil samples to evaluate the condition of the site after tank closure or removal. See PETROLEUM TANK RELEASE CLEANUP FUND, p. 171.

   B. **Operating Permit**

   The DEQ will issue an operating permit and a permanent non-expiring tag for each UST in compliance with the program's requirements. The department may authorize a temporary permit for tanks that do not meet the operating permit requirements. The DEQ will require that the noncompliance be
corrected at the earliest practicable time. Operating permits are valid for three years.

Rule: ARM 17.56.308, 17.56.309, 17.56.311, and 17.56.1301, et seq.

4. **Fees**

The annual registration fee for a tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less is $36, and for a tank with a capacity greater than 1,100 gallons, $108. Fees are assessed even if the tank is out of service.

Permit review and inspection fees are assessed for tank installations, closures, and modifications. Fees vary according to the type of tank and the intended work.

Rule: ARM 17.56.1001 and 17.56.1301, et seq.

5. **Variances**

A person may apply for a variance from a requirement or procedure of the underground storage tank program by requesting the approval of an alternative from the DEQ. Certain conditions apply.

Rule: ARM 17.56.105

6. **Additional Information**

A. **Aboveground Storage Tanks**

The Montana Department of Justice, Fire Prevention and Investigation Section, regulates the installation, operation, and removal of aboveground storage tanks to ensure safety from fire and verify compliance with the International Fire Code (2012 Edition) and referenced materials. The unauthorized discharge or release of flammable or combustible liquids and petroleum waste products must be handled as set forth in IFC Sections 2701.3.3.4, spill mitigation, and 2703.3, release of hazardous materials. Discharges or releases may also be regulated under the federal Clean Water Act in the event the discharge or release enters navigable waters.

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Division of Criminal Investigation
*Fire Prevention and Investigation Section*
B. Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund:

The state has established a Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund to financially assist owners and operators with the cleanup and damages caused by an accidental tank release. Contact the Petroleum Release Compensation Board for information on qualifying for financial assistance with tank releases.

Statute: 75-11-301 through 75-11-321, MCA
Rule: ARM 17.58.101-17.58.344
Contact: PETROLEUM TANK RELEASE COMPENSATION BOARD