

Safe Handling and Transportation of Hazardous Waste – Small Businesses

The La Crosse County Household Hazardous Materials Program services are available to small businesses that qualify as a Very Small Quantity Generator. Prior approval and an appointment are required for all business users. Call 608-785-9999.

Before Transporting:

- NEVER MIX CHEMICALS! Toxic fumes or an explosion can result.
- Wearing protective gloves and eye protection when loading containers of hazardous waste is recommended.
- When possible, bring items in their original containers, or clearly mark the name of the contents on container.
- Carefully inspect containers for damage or leaks, and tighten all lids before transporting.
- To transport, place containers upright in sturdy container. A cardboard box is generally adequate. Boxes may be lined with an absorbent material such as clay absorbent (kitty litter), newspapers or an open garbage bag; this will help ensure that your items don't leak into your vehicle.
- If container is leaking, pack separately it in a larger leak-free container, with an absorbent material in the bottom.
- Put in truck or rear of your vehicle (not on passenger seat). NEVER transport hazardous materials in the same part of your vehicle as children or pets.
- Secure the containers to prevent them from sliding or spilling.
- Leave mercury inside the switch, thermostat or thermometer.
- Wash your hands after handling these materials.

Packaging Fluorescent Lamps:

- Package all fluorescent lamps in boxes. Original boxes that are in good condition are adequate.
- Securely close the box. Tape it shut.
- Put broken lamps in an air tight container.
- Label the box "Universal Waste Fluorescent Lamps"

During transport:

- When transporting, keep the vehicle ventilated and place combustibles out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources. Containers that get hot may give off vapors that can be dangerous.
- NEVER eat, drink or smoke while handling or transporting household hazardous materials.

At the Household Hazardous Materials facility:

- Inform the Household Hazardous Materials facility staff of any unidentified/unknown hazardous waste.
- For safe unloading, keep wastes separate from other items such as trash or recyclable materials.