

**DISPOSAL SERVICES FOR
PHARMACEUTICAL WASTES
AVAILABLE TO
KING COUNTY GENERATORS**

Summary of Research on Disposal of
Pharmaceutical Wastes that are also
Hazardous or Dangerous Waste

**INTERAGENCY REGULATORY
ANALYSIS COMMITTEE
IRAC**



Spring 2002

About the Interagency Regulatory Analysis Committee (IRAC)

The Interagency Regulatory Analysis Committee (IRAC) is composed of more than 350 members from 160 regulatory agencies in Washington State and is staffed by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. IRAC encourages and addresses regulatory coordination and interagency cooperation and provides a forum for agencies to work together to address regulatory issues, conflicts and inconsistencies. Issue-specific workgroups are formed to study the circumstances around a conflict or inconsistency and the needs of all involved parties and to recommend improvements or changes in local ordinances or state or national regulations.

If you are interested in learning more about IRAC, write us at 130 Nickerson St., Suite 100, Seattle, WA 98109, call us at (206) 689-3087, or visit our Internet site at <http://www6.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/irac/index.html>.

About the Pharmaceuticals Workgroup

Questions relating to the proper disposal and recycling of pharmaceutical wastes in Washington were brought to IRAC by the Medical Industry Roundtable (MIRT). In March 2001, IRAC formed a Pharmaceutical Workgroup to address these issues and make recommendations.

The IRAC Pharmaceutical Workgroup is comprised of representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, reverse distribution businesses, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and regulators. For a complete list of participants, call IRAC at the number given above.

About this Document

The information in this document was researched and compiled for the workgroup by Alice Chapman, Staff Engineer with the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. The data was collected through telephone surveys of local King County hazardous waste management companies and all identified commercial hazardous waste incinerators in the United States. The information contained here is subject to change.

This publication can be reproduced in whole or in part provided all reference to IRAC is maintained.

What's NOT Covered Here

Information pertaining to:
biomedical wastes
precious metals
x-ray materials
cleaning solutions and disinfectants
industrial process chemicals

How Pharmaceuticals Fit Within the World of Hazardous Waste Regulation

What is the purpose of this document?

This document is a summary of research done by the IRAC Pharmaceutical Workgroup to locate hazardous waste incineration facilities available to generators of waste pharmaceuticals that designate as hazardous wastes. It is the hope of the workgroup that this information may be of use to you.

Who is affected by these regulations?

Hospitals, medical research facilities and others in the health care sector have been aware of and working within environmental regulations for years. Only recently have many smaller businesses within the medical industry: doctor's and dentist's offices, pharmacies, vet clinics and nursing homes, for instance; become aware that these regulations pertain to them as generators of hazardous wastes.

Why are these regulations in place?

Those working with medicines know that the dose makes the poison. Quantities of medicines that are no longer usable, sometimes mixed together, can be toxic to the environment. Placing unusable, waste medicines into the garbage or flushing them down a drain can introduce their combined toxic effects to the environment and all of us living in it. They can contaminate soil, seep into groundwater and drinking water or enter surface water like streams and lakes. It is for this reason that chemicals with certain dangerous characteristics are regulated as hazardous waste; and their disposal in a way that prevents release to the environment is required.

Who regulates hazardous wastes?

At the federal level:

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates certain chemicals as hazardous waste under the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA). Federally regulated hazardous wastes are those that are ignitable, corrosive, reactive, toxic, or listed as toxic or acutely hazardous in the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 261. RCRA-regulated pharmaceutical wastes must be disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste facility.

At the state level:

In Washington, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) spells out the requirements for identifying and handling hazardous wastes in its dangerous waste regulations, Chapter 173-303 WAC. Ecology's regulations are more stringent than RCRA. Because of wider definitions of dangerous properties, like corrosivity, toxicity and persistence, the Dangerous Waste Regulations encompass more chemicals, and therefore more pharmaceuticals, than RCRA. Ecology also requires that pharmaceutical wastes that designate as dangerous waste in the state of Washington be disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste facility.

Disclaimer

There is no guarantee that this list is complete. Although the researcher attempted to gather and validate all available information, it is possible that some hazardous waste brokers or hazardous waste incinerators that serve the King County area may have been inadvertently missed. Additionally, some information may have changed since its collection in December 2001. Be sure to call the contact numbers given to answer your questions.



Prescription, Over-the-Counter, and Non-Prescription Drugs

Not all these drugs require incineration; some can go to landfills, some are stabilized first and then landfilled. Ultimate disposal depends upon the substance. The following companies provide disposal of waste drugs that are not DEA-Controlled Substances, but are hazardous or dangerous waste:



COMPANY NAME	PHONE	COMMENTS
Keep It Clean Recycling & Equipment	425-868-3535	HazWaste transporter and broker designates, picks up and disposes at Philip's Small Quantity Generator drop-off service. Serves dental industry, also takes legend drugs.
Kleen Environmental Technologies	206-285-8010	HazWaste transporter and broker manages wastes from hospitals, works with returns programs, and has an outlet for DEA-controlled substances. Utilizes ENSCO incinerator.
LWD, Inc.	800-995-5813	Offers a variety of waste treatment services, including incineration. Uses waste profile to approve acceptance of specific waste.
Onyx Environmental Services	800-334-2387	HazWaste transporter and broker with incinerators in Texas and Illinois. Experience with disposing of meth lab wastes.
Pacific Industrial Resources (PIR)	253-437-0785	HazWaste transporter and broker (lowest cost alternative) will offer pharmaceutical waste management when demand for service improves.
PCI	800-388-7242	Permitted RCRA TSDF does not currently accept DEA-regulated waste or biohazardous (infectious) wastes.
Philip Services	800-228-7872	HazWaste TSDF and transporter manages hospital chemotherapy and x-ray wastes; small quantity generator drop-off service.
Prime Environmental Services	206-768-6162	HazWaste transporter and broker takes wastes to PCI in Indiana.
Romic Environmental Technologies Corp.	800-819-5912	HazWaste TSDF and transporter with options including fuel blending and incineration in Utah or Arkansas.
Safety-Kleen	800-669-5948	HazWaste TSDF and transporter with incinerators in Utah and Texas.
Teris/ENSCO	360-527-2222	HazWaste TSDF and transporter with incinerator in Arkansas, prefers drummed quantities.
Von Roll WTI	877-201-3301	HazWaste incineration company.

DEFINITIONS:

TSDF: Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility - permitted to accept hazardous wastes

DEA: Drug Enforcement Administration

Controlled Substances

Controlled Substances are those drugs that are regulated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). At the time of disposal, controlled substances must be destroyed beyond reclamation and their destruction must be witnessed by a person approved by the DEA.

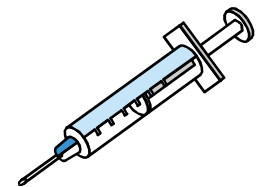


The following companies provide disposal and destruction by incineration of DEA-Controlled Substances that are also hazardous or dangerous waste:

COMPANY NAME	PHONE	COMMENTS
Diversified Scientific Services, Inc.	865-376-0084	Can accept controlled substances that are radioactive.
Kleen Environmental Technologies	206-285-8010	HW transporter/broker manages wastes from hospitals. Has an outlet for DEA-controlled substances.
Onyx Environmental Services	800-334-2387	Has local storage capability for DEA-controlled substances. Witnessed destruction available.
Romic Environmental Technologies Corp.	800-819-5912	Can accept gamma-butrolactone from semi-conductor industry. Other DEA-regulated wastes are not accepted.
Safety Kleen	800-669-5948	Conducts witnessed destruction. Witnesses are a third-party.
Teris/ENSCO	360-527-2222	Prefer drummed quantities.
Von Roll WTI	877-201-3301	Local sheriff will contract with generator to be DEA licencee witness.

Sharps

Sharps are syringes and needles that may have contained pharmaceuticals and that may have come into contact with bodily fluids. The following companies are permitted to handle hazardous waste and also dispose of sharps:



COMPANY NAME	PHONE	COMMENTS
Envirotech Systems	800-922-9395	HazWaste transporter and broker works with hospitals to take fixer, chemotherapy wastes and <i>unused</i> sharps.
Philip Services	800-228-7872	HazWaste TSDF and transporter manages chemotherapy, x-ray wastes and <i>unused</i> sharps packaged separately.
Safety-Kleen	800-669-5948	HazWaste TSDF and transporter with incinerators in Utah and Texas has a mail back program for sharps.
Teris/ENSCO	360-527-2222	HazWaste TSDF and transporter with incinerator in Arkansas will incinerate sharps packaged in 5 or 30-gallon poly drums called ""kiln-ready.""
Von Roll WTI	877-201-3301	HazWaste incineration company will take <i>unused</i> sharps only - no biohazardous waste.

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Alternate format available by calling 206-263-3050.