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## Universal Wastes

Universal wastes are certain hazardous wastes that are generated by a large cross section of the regulated community. Facilities that generate universal wastes range in size anywhere from large industrial complexes to individual households. Universal wastes are generally more innocuous than other hazardous wastes and management of these wastes as universal wastes is less onerous than normal hazardous waste management, and facilitates the increased recycling of these wastes. Universal waste management does not require use of a manifest or a licensed transporter to transport the waste to a permitted treatment, storage or disposal facility. More importantly, management as universal waste allows facilities that meet "universal waste handler" requirements to accumulate these wastes without a full hazardous waste storage permit.

Pennsylvania has incorporated as universal waste the wastes designated by EPA as universal waste - hazardous waste lamps, mercury thermostats, agricultural chemicals under a manufacturers recall or collection program and batteries. In addition Pennsylvania also classifies "mercury-containing devices" as universal wastes. Mercury-containing devices are those that require mercury to operate properly such as mercury switches, barometers, thermometers, etc.

Management of hazardous wastes under the universal waste program is less costly than management under full hazardous waste regulation. Lower transportation and accumulation costs help to increase the recycling of universal wastes, and also helps to divert them from unlawful disposal in non hazardous waste landfills.

[Universal Waste Compliance Guide](#)

[Universal Waste Facts Sheets](#)

[Information for Proper Disposal of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs](#)

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