

What can I put in the skip and what can't I?



Under the Hazardous Waste regulations, wastes which are hazardous and those that are not hazardous cannot be placed in the same skip. They cannot be mixed together in any other container such as a drum or IBC either.

Separating hazardous wastes in noticeably different locations on the site helps to prevent contamination. Additionally very clear labeling and employee training is proven to keep costs down as the processing of mixtures can be extremely expensive.

Good practice is to separate non hazardous wastes into 4 main streams

- Cardboard
- Glass
- Plastics
- Metals

Items often mixed in skips with non hazardous items such as cardboard, glass and paper are:-

1. Used paint cans
2. Paint cans containing some residual product
3. Adhesive containers
4. Spray-gun residues
5. Contaminated protective clothing
6. Rags and cleaning materials

The best rule of thumb which, works in many cases, for identifying hazardous materials are to look at the label the material arrived in on site, or any associated Health & Safety Data sheets which by law must be supplied. Hazardous symbols - red diamonds containing a symbol indicate a hazardous component. See the download regarding identifying different types of wastes.

Intercoat is licenced to remove and dispose of hazardous waste streams and can provide a quotation.

Responsibilities of Waste Producers

If you operate any form of business, you have a legal responsibility under the Environmental Act 1990 and other legislation to safely contain and legally dispose of any waste that is produced from your business. If you don't, you can be taken to court as you are committing an offence. Please note that your business rates do not include the cost of your business waste disposal. It is illegal to have waste removed without the relevant paperwork i.e. Duty of Care Note or Hazardous Waste Note.

If you are found to be disposing of your waste illegally you will be prosecuted. The maximum penalty is a fine of £50,000 and up to 12 months imprisonment in the Magistrates Court, 5 years imprisonment and unlimited fine at the Crown Court.

Most important when someone finds YOUR waste fly tipped, can you prove that YOU haven't dumped it there and that you have complied with all the requirements detailed above? If you can't, YOU may be liable to a fine up to £50,000 and up to 5 years imprisonment. Failure to produce the correct documentation can result in a fixed penalty Notice of £300.00.

With effect from January 2015, in accordance with the regulation set out within Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011, producers of waste have a duty in relation to the improved use of waste a resource.

In particular, regulation 12 states that waste producers have a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to apply the waste hierarchy shown below in descending order of desirability:-

- 1) Prevention
- 2) Preparation for re-use
- 3) Recycling
- 4) Other recovery
- 5) Disposal

Producers of waste should ensure that dry recyclable wastes are no longer mixed as part of their general waste. The four materials that should be separated are paper, glass, plastics and metals.

Producers of waste must sort and keep separate:-

- Hazardous waste and non hazardous waste
- Different types of non-hazardous waste
- Different types of hazardous waste
- Different types of waste oil

You must ensure that you have the relevant permits in place regarding your business operations and waste production.

Further information

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-legislation-and-regulations>

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