



## Illinois Hazardous Educational Waste Collection Program



Many schools contain a large number of hazardous educational materials that have been used in the past or may still be used for teaching. Hazardous educational waste is waste generated from curriculum-related activities, such as art or chemistry instruction. Wastes generated during non-instructional activities, such as building, grounds, or vehicle maintenance, or asbestos or lead abatement, are not hazardous educational wastes. Curriculum where such materials may be found includes chemistry, biology, agriculture, art, horticulture, industrial arts, and vocational studies. Some examples of these wastes include, chemical compounds, formaldehyde, formalin, glazes, mercury, mercury-containing devices, paint, pesticides, photographic fixatives containing silver, and solvent-based products. Hazardous educational wastes can be dangerous because of their age and condition, as well as other properties like flammability, reactivity, or toxicity. In addition, a spill or release of hazardous educational materials can be expensive to clean up, in some cases costing tens of thousands of dollars.

Illinois EPA has a program to collect, transport, and safely dispose of hazardous educational materials at no cost to the participating schools. Hazardous educational materials are found most often in schools that teach students in grades 9 through 12; however, any public or private K-12 school in Illinois is eligible to participate. Schools wanting to participate in the program should submit to Illinois EPA an application and inventory of hazardous educational wastes to be collected. As funds allow, Illinois EPA will send applications and inventories to its contractor, who will contact schools to arrange collection of the waste. Leave the wastes in their current location until Illinois EPA's contractor calls to schedule the collection. At that time, ask the contractor whether the school may move any of the wastes to a central location and follow any instructions given.

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