

# Universal Waste Management

University of New Haven



# Universal Waste

---

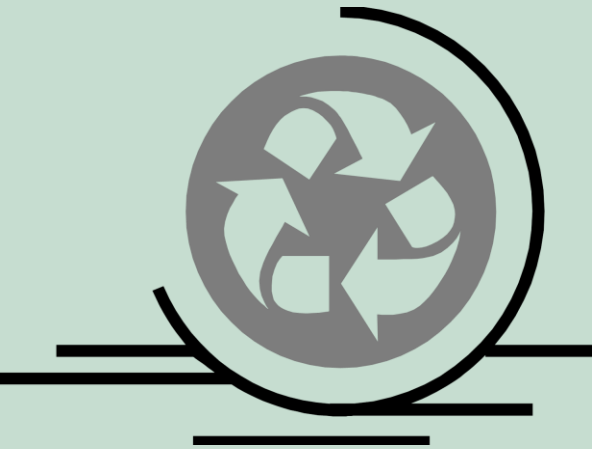
Universal wastes are common items such as fluorescent lamps and batteries that contain mercury and/or other toxic metals.

Universal wastes are hazardous wastes (or likely to be hazardous wastes if analyzed) that are managed under the Universal Waste Rule.

Historically, these wastes have been found in the solid waste stream and made their way to municipal incinerators and landfills where they have caused environmental contamination.

# Universal Waste

---



The Universal Waste Rule provides alternative management standards for these wastes so that they are not subject to the full range of the hazardous waste regulations

# Universal Waste

---

The CTDEEP identifies five categories of Universal Waste

1. Batteries;
2. Mercury-containing thermostats and other mercury-containing equipment;
3. Certain pesticides;
4. Lamps (included but not limited to fluorescent, neon and mercury vapor lamps); and
5. Used electronics.
  - Such equipment often contains heavy-metal bearing circuit components that can cause environmental contamination.

# Universal Waste

---



A universal waste item (individual lamp, battery, etc.) cannot accumulate on-site longer than 1 year after it became a waste.

The handler (generator) must be able to demonstrate compliance- labeling the containers or individual items with the beginning accumulation date is the most common method. Maintaining inventory and shipping logs is another.

# Universal Waste



A rectangular label template with a green border. At the top, the words "UNIVERSAL WASTE" are printed in large, bold, green capital letters. Below this, there are several sections for text entry, each followed by a horizontal line: "DESCRIPTION", "GENERATOR INFORMATION:" (with "TELEPHONE" to its right), "NAME", "ADDRESS", "CITY" (with "STATE" and "ZIP" to its right), and "ACCUMULATION START DATE" (with "DOCUMENT NO." to its right). At the bottom of the label, the words "HANDLE WITH CARE!" are printed in bold, green capital letters.

Universal wastes or universal waste containers must be labeled with the words:

“UNIVERSAL WASTE”

The type of Universal Waste, e.g., “Batteries”, “Lamps”, etc.

The accumulation start date (unless other documentation such as shipping logs can prove accumulation has not exceeded one year).

# Universal Waste

---



All universal wastes (other than used electronics and dry cell unbroken batteries) must be placed in **closed containers** designed to prevent releases.

**Adequate aisle space** must be maintained around the containers to allow unobstructed movement of personnel and emergency response equipment. **A minimum of 30-inch aisle space is recommended.**

# Universal Waste

---

A handler must immediately clean up and contain any broken cathode ray tube and place in a container that is closed, structurally sound and compatible with the CRT. It should prevent leakage, spillage or releases of broken CRTs, glass particles or other hazardous constituents from such broken tubes to the environment. A handler must not shred, crush, heat or otherwise treat used electronics.

*A hazardous waste determination must be performed to characterize spill debris.*



# Broken Bulbs

- Broken bulbs are no longer able to be managed as universal waste.
- All broken bulbs must be in a structurally sound closed container that is labeled with the words hazardous waste.



# Universal Waste



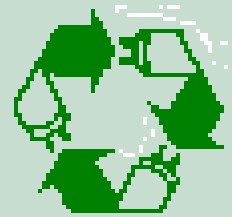
# Universal Waste

---

## Destination Facilities / Shipping

Universal wastes must be shipped to permitted recycling facilities, TSDFs, or to other handlers who then ship the wastes for recycling.

Universal wastes can be shipped on a bill of lading rather than a hazardous waste manifest.



# Training

---

A small quantity handler of universal waste must inform all employees who handle or have responsibility for managing universal waste.

The information must describe proper handling and emergency procedures appropriate to the type(s) of universal waste handled at the facility.

- A small quantity handler can accumulate not more than 5000 kilograms 11,000 (pounds) total of universal waste (batteries, pesticides, thermostats, lamps and used electronics collectively) at any time.