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Environmental Health Division

CANNABIS HAZMAT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Overview

There are multiple agencies that regulate cannabis businesses and their hazardous materials and hazardous wastes. Each agency regulates and licenses based on site and process-specific conditions.

Within unincorporated Solano County, cannabis related facilities are not permitted. However, the incorporated cities within Solano County are establishing their own ordinances regarding cannabis facilities. Within all of Solano County, these cannabis related facilities may be subject to regulations by the Solano County Environmental Health Division.



- **Bureau of Cannabis Control (Bureau)**

They regulate commercial cannabis businesses for medical and recreational use. The Bureau licenses retailers, distributors, testing labs, microbusinesses, and temporary cannabis events.

- **Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch (MCSB)**

The MCSB is a division of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). They regulate and license manufacturers of cannabis-infused edibles for medicinal and recreational use.

- **CalCannabis Cultivating Licensing (CalCannabis)**

CalCannabis is a division of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. They license cultivators of medicinal and recreational cannabis and implement a track-and-trace system to record the movement of cannabis through the distribution chain.

- **Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)**

In Solano County the Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Division, is the CUPA and as such is responsible for overseeing the regulatory requirements for the management of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes.

- **Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)**

The DTSC is responsible for overseeing the regulatory requirements for hazardous wastes including developing state regulations.

For more information about regulations in the cannabis industry and the three state licensing authorities visit the California Cannabis Portal at: <https://cannabis.ca.gov/>

What are Hazardous Materials Used in Cannabis Operations?



What is a hazardous material? A hazardous material is any chemical or chemical mixture that has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment either by itself or through interactions with other factors.

Cannabis growing and extraction operations use a variety of hazardous materials such as Carbon Dioxide (gaseous or liquid), Nitrogen (gaseous or liquid), Diesel, Propane, Butane, Solvents, Fertilizers and Pesticides. Any aggregate quantity of hazardous material equal to or greater than **55 gallons, 500 pounds or 200 cubic feet** is reportable and requires a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). A HMBP consists of facility information, a chemical inventory that includes both hazardous materials and hazardous wastes, a site diagram, an emergency response plan, and an employee training plan. A HMBP must be filed in the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). The CERS weblink for filing a HMBP is <https://cersbusiness.calepa.ca.gov/>. You can contact Solano County CUPA at (707) 784-6765 for assistance.

Note: Types and uses of pesticides are regulated by the Solano County Agriculture Department who can be contacted at (707) 784 -1310.

What is Hazardous Cannabis Waste?

Cannabis waste may be considered hazardous waste if it is waste that is listed under federal regulations or exhibits one of the four hazardous waste characteristics of: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity.

“Hazardous cannabis waste” is hazardous waste that contains cannabis and its chemical constituents. Hazardous cannabis waste found at related facilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Waste solvents (e.g. ethanol, butane, propane)
- Used reactants
- Aerosols/Compressed gasses
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers/Nutrients
- Used Batteries
- Universal waste (e.g. sodium and metal halide and fluorescent light bulbs)
- Contaminated absorbent materials (e.g. alcohol wipes, cotton swabs, wiping cloths)
- Mechanical components from equipment with residual solvent material (e.g. gaskets, filters)
- Process waste contaminated with solvents (e.g. plant fibers, wax paper)



More information of managing hazardous wastes can be found at: <http://solanocounty.com/> as well as <https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/>. You can contact the Solano County CUPA at (707) 784-6765

What is Non-Hazardous Cannabis Waste?



All cannabis waste (leaves, trim, stalks, stems, root balls, etc.) that is not combined with any hazardous or toxic material is considered organic waste and can be composted or disposed at a solid waste facility. Although it is considered organic, it cannot be tilled back into the soil. The organic waste must be composted on site, self-hauled to a facility that recycles organic waste, or picked up by a hauler that recycles organic waste.

“Unusable and Unrecognizable”

The Bureau and the MCSB requires non-hazardous cannabis waste to be rendered unusable and unrecognizable prior to disposal. This means any disposed cannabis good must be removed from packaging, crushed, and incorporated with non-consumable, solid waste (e.g. paper waste, plastic waste, food waste, grease or other compostable oil waste, or dirt). The mixture should be at least 50 percent non-cannabis waste. For questions regarding composting and managing non-hazardous cannabis wastes, contact the Environmental Health Division at (707) 784-6765 and ask for the solid waste staff.