

# 4 PRINTER WASTES

Printing operations produce a variety of wastes that have to be managed properly to reduce the impact on the environment and ensure that the printer complies with applicable DEP requirements. For the purpose of complying with federal and state regulations, a printer's waste can be divided into seven categories.

Nonhazardous  
Municipal Waste

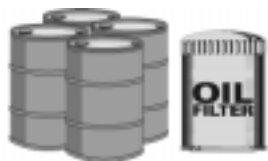


Residual Wastes

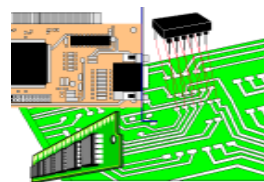
Batteries and  
Universal Wastes

Hazardous Waste

Fluorescent and  
Mercury Lamps



Waste Oil



Obsolete Electronics  
and Computers

Each of these waste streams represent a unique challenge to manage. Pollution prevention efforts can reduce and possibly eliminate some wastes. However, you will still be responsible for the proper management and disposal of the remaining wastes.






There are numerous, and sometimes complicated requirements for proper management of your printing wastes. This section highlights the important requirements you should know. From time to time, you may be referred to other DEP documents for more detailed information. If you need more information, call your regional DEP office or trade association.

## 1 Nonhazardous Municipal Wastes

Your printing operations generate solid wastes that consist of a wide range of unusable materials. Some of these wastes are considered nonhazardous and referred to as municipal wastes. (Hazardous wastes are discussed next in more detail.) They include wastes from commercial operations such as: business office and lunchroom wastes; nonmanufacturing wastes; and warehouse wastes not related to product handling. Whenever possible, you should investigate ways to reduce the quantity of municipal wastes that your shop generates. Although one shop alone may not generate a large quantity of municipal wastes, the enormous quantities of these wastes generated by all businesses and private individuals significantly impacts the environment.

Historically, the printing industry has made a commitment to reduce or recycle municipal wastes, such as office paper and buying bulk quantities of office supplies with reduced or no packaging. The economics of the print market will continue to force printers, like yourself, to consistently rethink these waste management issues to reduce your costs.

Here are some ways to reduce and manage municipal wastes.

-  Promote reuse and recycling of nonessential materials, such as aluminum cans, glass bottles, office paper, etc.
-  Make each department accountable for their own municipal wastes.
-  Do not mix any chemicals or other regulated wastes with these wastes. It is important to note that industrial liquids are prohibited from landfill disposal.
-  Use plastic reusable/recyclable pallets, whenever possible.
-  Enlist shop employees and suppliers to eliminate excess packaging and overruns.