



Safety Note

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



Safety Note #112

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSAL WASTE REQUIREMENTS



Photograph Courtesy of the
REC Administrative Office

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22, Section 66261.9 exempts certain “universal waste” from the requirements for hazardous waste. Universal waste is hazardous waste that has been determined by the state to: (1) pose a lower risk than other hazardous waste, (2) be generated by a wide variety of people, and (3) have reduced management requirements, including those for hazardous waste manifesting. ANR facilities and offices are designated conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQGs) because they produce less than

220 pounds of hazardous waste or 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste per month. It is illegal for CESQGs (and households) to put universal waste in the trash for disposal at a landfill. However, it is permissible for CESQGs (and households) to dispose of universal waste at county household collection facilities and recycling facilities.

Universal waste includes the following:

- Batteries such as nickel-cadmium, alkaline (e.g. AA, AAA, C, D, 9V), mercury, zinc-carbon, nickel-metal hydride, lithium ion, and lithium polymer.
- Thermostats containing metallic-mercury ampules.
- Lamps such as fluorescent, high-intensity discharge, neon, mercury vapor, high-pressure sodium, and metal halide.
- Cathode ray tubes such as computer monitors, televisions, cash registers, and oscilloscopes.
- Consumer electronic devices such as computers, computer peripherals, telephones, answering machines, radios, stereo equipment, tape players/recorders, phonographs, video cassette players/recorders, compact disc players/recorders, calculators, LCDs, plasma monitors, and microwave ovens. In short, any electronic device that has a circuit board.

ANR facilities and offices may accumulate universal waste for no longer than one year from the date the universal waste is generated (CCR Title 22, Section 66273.15 a).

Universal waste shall be stored in a container that is labeled with the first date of accumulation (CCR Title 22, Section 66273.15 c 1).

ANR facilities and offices (and households) may transport no more than five gallons or 50 pounds of universal waste per trip to a county household collection facility. Similarly, a maximum of 27 gallons or 220 pounds of universal waste per month may be transported to a county household collection facility.



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County household collection facilities are listed at: <http://www.ciwm.ca.gov/HHW/Directory/default.aspx>.