

VSQG Program

Very Small Quantity Generator Program

The Program

The City of Palo Alto operates a hazardous waste collection program for qualifying businesses and non-profit organizations that generate a small amount of hazardous waste. The goal of this program is to provide a convenient, less-expensive and safe disposal service for these generators.



Who Is Eligible?

To use this program, your business or non-profit organization must qualify as a “Very Small Quantity Generator” (VSQG) as defined by California state law and meet the location requirement.

- Your business must generate less than 100 kilograms (220 pounds or 27 gallons) of hazardous waste or one kilogram of extremely hazardous waste per month
- Your business must be located within the communities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View and Stanford

Examples of businesses that use this service are: painting contractors, print shops, photo labs, retail stores, hotels/motels, machine shops and non-profit organizations.

Your Legal Responsibility

It is the VSQG’s responsibility to know the local, state and federal laws regarding storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste. Here are a few reminders:

Storage

VSQG’s may accumulate up to 220 pounds of hazardous wastes at your business location (or up to 2.2 pounds of extremely hazardous wastes). Wastes may be stored for a maximum of 90 days before they must be transported to a permitted treatment, storage, or disposal facility. (CCR Title 22, Section 66262.34 and California Health and Safety Code, Section 25123.3).

Transportation

VSQG’s may transport their waste for disposal to the City of Palo Alto Household Hazardous Waste Station provided:

- 1) All of the waste was generated by the VSQG
- 2) They made an appointment to drop off the waste (1-800-433-5060)
- 3) The waste is transported in a company-owned vehicle
- 4) The waste is transported in closed containers to prevent tipping, spilling or breaking during transport
- 5) Different wastes are not comingled

(California Health and Safety Code Section 25218.5)

Other Disposal Options

For Business Waste Generators

Independent Hazardous Waste Disposal Contractors*

As an alternative to the City of Palo Alto VSQG program, you may contact a licensed hazardous waste contractor to handle your business waste.

ACT (408) 548-5050

AERC (510) 429-1129

Clean Harbors (800) 444-4244

Fremouw Environmental (888) 559-3274

North State Environmental (650) 588-2838

Clean Earth (866) 303-7344

Safety Kleen (800) 972-5284

Veolia (800) 368-9095

Drop Off Facilities*

Additionally there are businesses and programs that manage specific waste streams.

Green Citizen

Recyclable wastes such as rechargeable batteries, compact fluorescent lamps, and electronic wastes. www.greencitizen.com

PaintCare

Architectural paint disposal. Find a PaintCare drop-off location near you or contact them directly for quantities greater than 300 gallons www.paintcare.org

**Business listings should not be construed as an endorsement by the City of Palo Alto.*