**Hazard wastes:-**

is [waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste) that has substantial or potential threats to [public health](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_health) or the [environment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_environment).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazardous_waste#cite_note-RCRA-1)

* Characteristic hazardous wastes are materials that are known or tested to exhibit one or more of the following four hazardous traits:
  + [Ignitability](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flammability)
  + [Reactivity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reagent)
  + [Corrosivity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corrosive_substance)
  + [Toxicity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poison)
* Listed hazardous wastes are materials specifically listed by regulatory authorities as hazardous wastes which are from non-specific sources, specific sources, or [discarded chemical products](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discarded_chemical_products).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazardous_waste#cite_note-2)

Hazardous wastes may be found in different physical states such as gaseous, liquids, or solids. A hazardous waste is a special type of waste because it cannot be disposed of by common means like other by-products of our everyday lives. Depending on the physical state of the waste, treatment and solidification processes might be required.

Worldwide, the [United Nations Environmental Programme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Environmental_Programme) (UNEP) estimated that more than 400 million tons of hazardous wastes are produced universally each year, mostly by industrialized countries (schmit, 1999). About 1 percent of this is shipped across international boundaries, with the majority of the transfers occurring between countries in the Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development(OECD) (Krueger, 1999).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazardous_waste#cite_note-Orloff,_Kenneth_2003-3) One of the reasons for industrialized countries to ship the hazardous waste to industrializing countries for disposal is the rising cost of disposing hazardous waste in the home country.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazardous_waste#cite_note-Orloff,_Kenneth_2003-3)