



KNOW what's at stake.

As the generator of a hazardous secondary material, you ultimately decide whether the material is safely managed. The decision to recycle your hazardous materials can be an important step in reducing your company's environmental footprint.

When improperly managed, hazardous secondary materials can be released into the environment, polluting the land, water, and air, and affecting public health. Asking your recycler a few questions can prevent environmental damage and ensure that your materials do not contribute to a site that faces a costly environmental clean-up in its future.

If you are uncomfortable with a recycler's ability to answer the questions on the previous pages in a satisfactory manner, you may want to send your materials to another recycler.




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Choosing a Responsible Recycler



Why choosing a responsible recycler matters.

A GUIDE FOR GENERATORS OF HAZARDOUS SECONDARY MATERIALS

Does your facility generate hazardous waste or other hazardous secondary materials that could be sent off-site for recycling? Are you interested in recycling, but unsure of what to look for in a recycler?

Recycling secondary materials can save valuable resources and energy. But sometimes materials sent for recycling end up being poorly managed or mismanaged, and become part of the waste management problem.

You can protect your business and community by choosing to recycle and by making sure that your materials are being recycled and managed responsibly.





What to ask when choosing a recycler

LEARN the basics.

Can the recycler give you a general description of its business, including a point of contact, number of employees, years in business and ownership history, site information and history, summary of operations, services offered, etc.?

Can the recycler provide the facility's compliance record with federal and state environmental and occupational safety regulations? Does the facility's record indicate a commitment to sound environmental stewardship?

UNDERSTAND the recycling process.

Does the recycler normally accept the materials you want recycled?

After receiving your materials, does the recycler track them through its process?

Can the recycler describe its processes and procedures for recycling, reuse, or resale?

Does the recycler have environmental, health, and safety management systems in place to ensure environmentally sound management practices?

ASK about what happens afterwards.

Is there a reliable market for the saleable products or intermediates that are made from recycling your hazardous secondary material?

Are residuals, if any are generated from the recycling process, managed in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment?

Can the recycler provide names and locations of businesses, landfills, or incinerators to which it sends products and/or residuals?

Can the recycler supply certification of final disposition for your materials, if necessary?

CONSIDER a few other things.

Are you interested in verifying information through an onsite evaluation, such as an environmental compliance audit? Do you want to check the facility's record in EPA's public databases (such as <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/>) or state databases?

Does the recycler maintain appropriate environmental liability insurance, and are mechanisms in place to ensure clean-up costs would be covered if the facility unexpectedly closes or has to perform an environmental clean-up?



WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit EPA's general hazardous materials recycling Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/wastes/hazard/recycling>

Review a recycler's compliance status with EPA at <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/>