



Nail Salons and Beauty Salons Fact Sheet

Hillsborough County is home to more than a thousand salons, many of which provide services that result in the generation of hazardous wastes. This fact sheet has been prepared to help you understand the regulatory requirements for the safe management and disposal of typical hazardous salon waste. This fact sheet is not intended to be a complete reference to all applicable regulations and may not include all hazardous chemicals found in salons. It is also assumed that the majority of salons generate less than 220-lbs/100-kg of hazardous waste in any single calendar month and are categorized as very small quantity generators of hazardous waste (VSQGs).

Please note that the salon owner is responsible for determining the quantity of hazardous waste generated each month, managing the hazardous waste while it is at the salon, and ensuring its proper disposal. Contact the Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program at (813) 627-2600 for personalized compliance assistance if you believe you generate more than 220-lbs of hazardous waste in a single month.

Waste Acetone, Waste Polishes/Gels, Waste Removers

Any waste with a flash point less than 140 °F /60 °C, or with 24% or higher alcohol content, is considered ignitable and a regulated hazardous waste. This includes most liquid solvents and polishes commonly used at salons, but could also include cotton balls, cloths, etc., if they are not dry when discarded.

Bottles of polish that the salon no longer uses may be given to customers if they are still viable or emptied into the waste storage container to be disposed of with the rest of the liquid ignitable wastes. Empty bottles of polish may be tossed in the regular trash.

Store liquid ignitable wastes in a container with a tight-fitting lid. Label the container with a description of the contents (e.g., “waste acetone”). If the container is metal, it should also be grounded. It is also a good idea to indicate the contents are flammable. Keep the container away from heat, flames and other ignition sources.

Used Cotton Balls, Swabs and Rags

If these wastes are not dripping with acetone or other solvents, they may be discarded into the regular trash. If you are generating used cotton balls, etc., that are saturated and dripping wet, adjust your work practices so they are dry when discarded to avoid generating hazardous waste. If you are using non-acetone solvents, you may need to separately bag and label the waste before putting it in the trash.

Spent/Used Fluorescent Lamps / Universal Waste Lamps

Waste fluorescent lamps from overhead lighting fixtures and nail polish/gel curing lamps must be recycled. Fluorescent lamps contain mercury and are typically hazardous waste if not recycled. Additionally, the incineration of any fluorescent lamp is prohibited in the State of Florida.

Store waste fluorescent lamps in containers that will protect them from breakage, and keep the containers closed unless you need to add or remove a lamp. Waste lamps may even be stored in their original box as long as all openings are covered/sealed. Label the container "universal waste lamps," "waste lamps" or "used lamps." When the box is full, make recycling arrangements.

Waste Aerosol Spray Cans

Damaged or unusable aerosol spray cans are likely hazardous wastes unless they are empty. "Empty" means that no contents or propellants remain in the can after normal use. Store waste aerosol cans still containing product and/or propellant in a closed container. Label the container "waste aerosol cans" or something similar. Dispose of the cans as hazardous waste. Empty cans may go into the regular trash.

Disposal of Hazardous and Universal Wastes

Do NOT pour ignitable wastes down your sink or toilet.

Do NOT put ignitable wastes or any liquid waste in the regular trash.

Do NOT throw fluorescent lamps in the regular trash.

Contact a hazardous waste disposal company or transporter to pick up the waste from your business for proper disposal. Universal waste lamps can also be picked up from your business by a registered waste lamp transporter, or you can use one of the several commercially available pre-paid box mailers to ship the waste lamps directly to the recycler. Keep all receipts of recycling and/or disposal for at least three years.

If you have any questions about this fact sheet, or about waste management in general, please contact the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County at (813) 627-2600, and ask to speak with someone from the SQG Program.