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## **Hazardous & General Waste Tips for Ethanol Plants**

This guidance document has been produced by the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) to provide basic information about waste management for ethanol plants. The regulations applying to this topic can be found in Nebraska [Title 128 – Hazardous Waste Regulations](#). All waste generators are required to perform a waste determination to see if their waste streams are a hazardous waste.

The following are examples of waste streams that should be considered as potential hazardous wastes that will require a waste determination:

- Still bottom sludges
- Sludges from floor drains, sand pits, oil and water separators, etc.
- Wastewater treatment sludges
- Strong acids or bases (for example: acid hydrolysis processes)
- Spent oils not managed as used oil as provided for under Title 128, Chapter 7
- Fusel oil and related distillation compounds that do not meet the comparable / syngas fuel exclusion (Title 128, Chapter 3 §018) or are not byproducts exhibiting a hazardous waste characteristic being reclaimed (Title 128, Chapter 2 §003.03C)
- Spent solvents or wastewater from azeotropic distillation processes
- Secondary materials from ethanol production
- Tube and vessel cleaning wastes (boilers and reaction vessels)
- Fluorescent light tubes and Compact Fluorescent Lamps
- High Intensity Discharge lamps
- Parts washer solvents, sludges, or filters
- Empty or unusable aerosol cans
- Paint wastes including spent paint solvents
- Rag and wipes not managed under a rag laundering contract
- Batteries
- Computer monitors
- Cleaning products

## Upset Considerations

Plan ahead for large waste generation events. Ensure that the facility has the storage capacity to contain an overage amount of thin stillage. If wet distillers grain is stored on a wet cake pad before transport, ensure that the pad has suitable containment capacity for overage amounts. It is recommended to have contingency plans in place for large waste generation events.

## **RESOURCES:**

- DWEE Home Page <https://dwee.nebraska.gov/>

## **Contacts:**

- DWEE Main Number (402) 471-2186
- DWEE Toll Free Number (877) 253-2603
- DWEE Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistant (402) 471-8308
- Email questions to: [DWEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov](mailto:DWEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov)

## **DWEE Publications:**

- Environmental Guidance Document – “Comparison of Hazardous Waste Generator Requirements”
- Environmental Guidance Document – “Waste Determinations and Hazardous Waste Testing”  
*Guidance documents are available on the DWEE website by clicking “Visit Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (DEE),” selecting “Forms,” and “Publications, Grants & Forms.”*
- [Title 128 – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations](#)  
*Titles are available on the DWEE website by clicking “Visit Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (DEE),” selecting “Resources and Services,” “Laws & Regulations,” and “Rules & Regulations.”*

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