

# EHS | RETAIL HAZARDOUS UNIVERSAL WASTE



## UNIVERSAL WASTE

Almost all retail stores may produce hazardous universal waste. The federal regulations identify five specific categories of materials that can be managed as universal wastes: batteries, pesticides, mercury-containing equipment, lamps, and aerosol cans.

Even though you may generate only a small volume of hazardous universal waste, the fines for hazardous waste noncompliance can still add up.

## UNIVERSAL HAZARDOUS WASTE

### How do I know if Something is a Hazardous Universal Waste?

Universal wastes are hazardous upon disposal but pose a lower risk to people and the environment than other hazardous wastes. Common examples of universal wastes include:

- **Aerosol cans** discarded non-empty aerosol can would be a hazardous waste, and consequently, a universal waste.
- **Lamps, Fluorescent lamps, batteries, and batteries** contain metals, such as mercury, which can be toxic.
- **Televisions, computers, computer monitors** which contain hazardous materials, such as lead and phosphorus, in their screens. These substances can pose environmental and health risks.

Although these types of products are generally safe to use, when discarded they may cause harm to the environment if they leach into the soil and groundwater. Always consider if the item may be a contaminant to ground water, soil, or air!

### What do I need to do?

**Know what is universal hazardous.**

EssilorLuxottica has disposal programs in place for hazardous universal waste. You can request a waste pickup or mail-back boxes/buckets for specific waste streams by opening a Store Maintenance work order.

If you are not sure if something hazardous or if it needs special disposal considerations, email your Operations email box or [RetailSafety@luxotticaretail.com](mailto:RetailSafety@luxotticaretail.com) for help.

## Tips on Minimizing Waste

- Only buy what you need when you need it. This will minimize the amount of storage space needed and help you to use your cleaners efficiently.
- Organize your storage areas, so you can quickly know what is already available.
- Purchase non-aerosol versions of cleaners to avoid creating hazardous aerosol waste.
- If you receive a new IT or OD device, request that the provider immediately collect the old one as per existing agreements; if this does not happen, immediately contact the procurement team that supplies the new device for EL
- Batteries hazard: damaged or unstable batteries and improper charging, storage or disposal can cause the batteries to overheat, leading to an explosive, aggressive fire that spreads rapidly, can reignite and is challenging to extinguish. Store secured, in a cool, dry location. Inspect the battery (case and frame) for physical damage: **Damaged BATTERIES** may be identified if the product is leaking, hot to the touch, swollen, cracked, or bloated. If BATTERY damage is found, it must be disposed of product as hazardous waste.

It is also important to understand that businesses are often more regulated than individuals. This means that sometimes items that you can throw away at home must be collected as hazardous waste while at work.



Don't forget to share your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve our health and safety programming!