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Dear Stakeholder:

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP) and the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management (DEP) jointly issue this guidance regarding the proper disposal of waste generated by licensees in OMP's Adult Use Marijuana Program (AUMP).

Licensed cultivation facilities, product manufacturing facilities, sample collectors, marijuana testing facilities and marijuana stores will likely generate some or all of the following kinds of waste: wastewater, solid waste, marijuana waste, hazardous waste and universal waste. Proper disposal of these wastes is critical to ensuring the public's health and safety and protecting Maine's natural resources.

This guidance is being issued by both OMP and DEP to provide program participants with resources to inform waste management plan development and to promote safe, healthy, and environmentally sustainable waste management practices by all licensees. Please check your municipality's local ordinances before starting any development and business activities.

### **Marijuana Waste**

Generally, marijuana waste that is not hazardous waste can be composted or otherwise disposed of if it is mixed with other organic material (e.g. wood chips, saw dust, yard clipping, manure, etc.) and blended until the mixture is at least 50% other organic material and the waste is unusable as marijuana.

It is not advisable to mix marijuana waste with other solid waste such as rocks, glass, demolition debris, kitty litter, metal, wire, etc. as this will contribute to an increase of solid waste when marijuana waste, when appropriately rendered unusable and unrecognizable by mixing with organic material, is otherwise compostable.

Once marijuana waste is appropriately mixed with other waste material, rendering the waste unusable and unrecognizable as marijuana, it is no longer considered "marijuana" and may be disposed of in any manner deemed appropriate for non-marijuana waste, including, without limitation, on-site composting, off-site composting, municipal composting projects, or other solid waste disposal.

For more information on composting, please contact:

Mark King (DEP)      Email: [Mark.A.King@maine.gov](mailto:Mark.A.King@maine.gov)      Phone: (207) 592-0455

A licensee may also seek approval from OMP and DEP jointly for an alternative technique or method that renders marijuana waste unusable. Registrants and licensees seeking approval for an alternative rendering technique or method can begin the review process by contacting:

Vern Malloch (OMP)      Email: at [Vernon.Malloch@maine.gov](mailto:Vernon.Malloch@maine.gov)      Phone: (207) 624-7455

### **Hazardous Waste**

Some waste generated by licensees may be considered hazardous waste, requiring special hazardous waste disposal. A hazardous waste is a waste that exhibits a hazardous characteristic or is a listed waste. The four criteria that define a characteristic waste are: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity. The four categories of listed hazardous wastes are: non-specific sources; specific sources; commercial chemical products, intermediates, or off-specification products; and polychlorinated biphenyl.

Licensees must dispose of these hazardous wastes in accordance with state and federal hazardous waste disposal regulations.

OMP and DEP are currently working to determine whether some wastes generated by marijuana extraction techniques should be considered hazardous as described above. If you are a licensee who would like to share data with OMP and DEP regarding the characteristics of extraction waste generated by your facility, please contact DEP's Small Business Ombudsman:

Julie Churchill (DEP)      Email: [julie.m.churchill@maine.gov](mailto:julie.m.churchill@maine.gov)      Phone: (207) 287-7881

It is OMP and DEP's intention to provide more specific guidance regarding hazardous waste and extraction waste once it has had an opportunity to review additional data sets.

Sincerely,



Erik Gundersen  
Director, Office of Marijuana Policy