



Special Waste Regulations in Texas

Special waste is any solid waste that requires special handling and disposal because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical characteristics, or biological properties. Special waste is defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Chapter 330, 330.3. Special waste that is not specifically identified in 30 TAC 330.171(c) or (d), or 330.173 requires prior written authorization by the TCEQ for disposal. Written authorization for the disposal of a special waste can be obtained in two ways:

1. The generator, with written concurrence from a landfill willing to accept the special waste, may submit a Request for Authorization for Disposal of a Special Waste, agency form TCEQ-0152, along with any supporting documentation, to the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Permits Section for review; or
2. the generator may request approval to dispose of a special waste directly from an MSW landfill operator that has an approved Waste Acceptance Plan identified in 330.61(b) that authorizes the acceptance of the specific special waste as set out in 330.171(b)(2).

Special wastes identified in, and meeting the requirements of, 30 TAC 330.171(c) and (d) do not require prior written authorization before disposal, provided the MSW landfill is permitted to accept these wastes. These include:

- Municipal hazardous waste from conditionally exempt small-quantity generators may be accepted at a Type I or Type IAE landfill provided the amount of waste does not exceed 220 lb (100 kg) per month per generator.
- Municipal wastewater treatment plant sludges, other types of domestic sewage treatment plant sludges, and water-supply treatment plant sludges.
- Liquid wastes from municipal sources that are treated or processed to eliminate free liquids and tested in accordance with 30 TAC 330.171(c)(7).
- Grease-trap and grit-trap wastes.
- Slaughterhouse wastes.
- Dead animals.
- Empty pesticide (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, or rodenticide) containers that have been triple rinsed and rendered unusable.

and other similar establishments and is regulated under Chapters 330 and 335 in the same manner as grease-trap waste. Grit-trap waste must be transported to an authorized facility which can be a processing or treatment facility, a liquid waste transfer station, or an MSW landfill. Grit-trap waste may also be processed on-site by mobile treatment or processing units. In order for grit-trap waste to be disposed of in an MSW landfill, the waste must pass the paint filter test, Method 9095. Grit-trap waste from car washes may be dried on-site or at a location within 50 miles of generation that is owned by the generator and then disposed of at an authorized facility.

4. **Domestic septage:** Includes liquid and solid material pumped from a septic tank, cesspool, or similar sewage-treatment system and is regulated under 330 in the same manner as grease- and grit-trap waste, but is also subject to Chapter 312 of 30 TAC if used beneficially by land applying. Septage waste must be transported to an authorized facility which can be a wastewater treatment plant, a beneficial land-use site, an MSW processing facility or transfer station, a compost facility, a monofill (sludge only) landfill, or an MSW Type I landfill, or septage may be processed on-site by a mobile unit. Septage waste that is transported to a beneficial land-use site or a monofill must be treated by raising the pH of the waste to 12 for a period of 30 minutes. This treatment is usually performed in the transport unit by adding lime and is the only treatment process allowed for transporters. In addition, septage waste must meet the metal concentration requirements of 30 TAC 312.43 prior to beneficial land application. Like grease- and grit-trap waste, septage waste must pass the paint filter test prior to disposal in an MSW landfill or monofill.
5. **Liquid waste transporter requirements:** All transporters of liquid waste—including grease-trap, grit-trap, and septage waste—must be registered with the TCEQ. Transporters are required to manifest shipments of liquid waste in the form of a trip ticket that identifies the generator, the transporter, and the disposal facility. The transporter is required to provide the generator with the first copy of the trip ticket; after delivery, the transporter must provide the generator the completed fourth copy, which verifies that the disposal facility received the shipment of liquid waste. Transporter companies are required to maintain records of all shipments of liquid waste for five years.
6. **Liquid waste generator requirements:** Generators are responsible for the proper treatment and disposal of their waste. Generators must contract with a TCEQ-registered liquid-waste transporter and must receive a copy of the signed trip ticket from the transporter. The generator must also receive a second signed copy of the trip ticket with the treatment or disposal facility signature and information and must maintain trip-ticket records for three years. Industrial liquid-waste generators are responsible for properly

