

The Florida Handbook of Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation: Introduction¹

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Introduction

Current solid and hazardous waste law is a maze of statutes, regulations, and potential liabilities. This handbook is designed to act as your guide and as a first step in helping you recognize which agricultural and household activities may involve solid and hazardous wastes. It also provides an introduction to the agencies and statutes that govern solid and hazardous waste disposal.

Solid and hazardous waste law is evolving rapidly as concern for the environment increases. Because the specific goals of current environmental statutes vary, the law as a whole can be very confusing. Legal definitions are provided where needed. Check [FE785](#) (Glossary) for the definition of terms because statutes and regulations may define many words more broadly or narrowly than you might expect. For example, the statutory definition of solid waste includes solid materials as well as semi-solids, liquids, and even gases. Any word that is not defined or explained should be understood as everyday language.

Overlapping, unclear, and occasionally even contradictory waste management rules in this area of law create difficulty for both lawyers and laypersons in determining their exact rights and responsibilities. Persistence in attempting to understand the system is important because penalties or liabilities for failure to comply, in some instances, may be quite substantial.

This work should not be considered the final word on any topic. Fees and fines for all EPA-administered programs, for instance, may change to reflect inflation. Instead, use this handbook to determine when you might need to seek more information, and for contact information of agencies that can answer specific questions. State and federal agencies are the best sources for information. These agencies can provide more information on a topic, answer specific questions, and often supply free literature. Therefore we have included contact information of the relevant state and federal agencies and divisions in [FE786](#) (Contact Agencies).

1. This is EDIS document FE759, a publication of the Food and Resource Economics Department, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL. Published November 2008, revised December 2013. Please visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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