



The City of Desert Hot Springs currently has a Franchised Waste Hauling Agreement with Desert Valley Disposal (DVD). DVD is the only approved and fully permitted, City authorized waste collection agent for all municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in the city.

MSW includes:

Trash: Multiple size containers and collections available.

Recyclables: Multiple size containers and collections available.

Yard Waste/Organics: Tree trimmings, grass clippings etc. multiple size containers available.

Cannabis Cultivation Waste:

- **Cultivation green waste:** Stems, stalks, leaves & flowers).
- **Failed test batches.**
- **Cannabis Goods.**
- **Soil.**
- **Lithium-ion batteries (used in vaping cartridges and pens) have recently been linked to trash truck fires, landfill fires and transfer station fires. These batteries must be removed from the any vaping device before it is placed into DVD waste containers.**

Updated DCC Cannabis Waste Regulations (Q&A)

1. Can my local approved hauler of municipal solid waste and green waste pick up cannabis waste?

Yes, if the cannabis waste is not hazardous waste, a waste hauler approved by the local agency can transport and recycle it like other wastes. By the end of 2020, any business that generates two or more cubic yards of solid waste per week must recycle its organic waste. Cannabis cultivators that generate two or more cubic yards of solid waste per week must either compost onsite, self-haul to a manned, fully permitted facility that recycles organic waste, or have it picked up by a hauler that recycles organic waste.

2. Who will manage cannabis waste? How will it be managed?

In July 2021, three different state programs that managed cannabis in California merged into one, the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). The DCC recently adopted (September 29, 2021) a consolidated rulemaking package to combine the three sets of regulations so that licensing and enforcement regulations are consistent. To view current regulations, pending rulemaking actions and approved rulemaking actions, please see **DCC's Rulemaking webpage**.

3. Do the regulations require cannabis material be rendered “unusable and unrecognizable?”

The emergency regulations adopted by the DCC on September 29, 2021 identify a more narrow and targeted scope of situations in which it is important for cannabis licensees (as defined in section 15000) to render waste unrecognizable. For cannabis or cannabis products that have failed quality standards, the material must be rendered “unusable” prior to disposal. In addition, the rendering of the cannabis or cannabis products shall be done under video surveillance, unless

the rendering is performed by a licensee engaging in cultivation activities on a licensed premises authorized exclusively for cultivation activities or the cultivation area of a licensed microbusiness premises. See section 17223 of the regulations for more information on waste management, and section 15044 for more information on video surveillance requirements. For cannabis goods that are recalled, the licensee shall render the recalled cannabis goods “unusable” after a minimum 72-hour quarantine and dispose of it in accordance with sections 15044, 17223, and 17226.

Licensed testing laboratories can destroy and denature reserve samples to the point that the material is rendered unrecognizable and unusable after holding the samples for at least 45 business days after analysis. See section 15728 for more information.

Prior to cannabis waste disposal, all cannabis plant material and cannabis products must be:

- **Broken down so that it is unrecognizable as to what the material is.**
- **Destroyed so that it cannot be consumed or used in any way.**

4. Are there any reporting requirements for cannabis or cannabis products that are disposed of?

There are reporting requirements specific to disposal as well as other general reporting requirements for cannabis licensees:

- (A) The type of cannabis or cannabis products.
- (B) The weight, volume, or count of the cannabis or cannabis products.
- (C) The date of activity.
- (D) The UID assigned to the cannabis or cannabis products.
- (E) If cannabis or cannabis products are being destroyed or disposed of, the licensee shall record the following information in the notes section:
 - (i) The name of the employee performing the destruction or disposal;
 - (ii) The reason for destruction or disposal; and
 - (iii) The method of disposal. These requirements are found in section 15049.

5. What are the thresholds for determining hazardous waste for cannabis?

It is the responsibility of the licensee to properly evaluate waste to determine if it should be designated and handled as a hazardous waste, as defined in Public Resources Code section 40141. For questions regarding the specific threshold for this material, please contact the **California Department of Toxic Substance Control**.

6. What happens with diseased or otherwise disqualified (composted, sterilized, or held for inspection for a certain time) cannabis product?

Cannabis or cannabis products that cannot enter the legal marketplace due to failed testing or disease should be handling following the requirements of section 17223 of the DCC regulations:

- (A) All cannabis or cannabis products in the batch shall be rendered unusable prior to disposal;
- (B) The rendering of the cannabis or cannabis products shall be done under video surveillance, unless the rendering is performed by a licensee engaging in cultivation activities on a licensed premises authorized exclusively for cultivation activities or the cultivation area of a licensed microbusiness premises; and

(C) The reason for disposal and the disposition of the batch shall be noted in the track and trace system.