

# Fact Sheet

# Cannabis Waste Management

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This fact sheet provides proper management and disposal procedures for cannabis waste at cannabis cultivation facilities, testing facilities, product manufacturing facilities and retail stores. Cannabis waste may be regulated as either hazardous or non-hazardous, depending on how it is processed.

## Cannabis and Cannabis Waste

**Cannabis** means a cannabis plant and anything referred to in Schedule 1 of the Federal [Cannabis Act](#).

- Any part of a cannabis plant, including the phytocannabinoids produced by, or found in, such a plant, regardless of whether that part has been processed or not;
- Any substance or mixture of substances that contains or has on it any part of such a plant; or
- A substance identical to any phytocannabinoid produced by, or found in, such a plant, regardless of how the substance was obtained.

Cannabis does **not** include anything referred to in Schedule 2 of the [Cannabis Act](#).

- A non-viable seed of a cannabis plant;
- A mature stalk, without any leaf, flower, seed or branch, of such a plant;
- Fibre derived from a stalk; or
- The root or any part of the root of such a plant.

**Cannabis waste** refers to unwanted cannabis. Please refer to the [Cannabis Act](#) for the full definition of cannabis.

## Cannabis Waste Management

Solid and liquid wastes generated during production and processing must be stored, managed and disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation.

### Liquid Cannabis Waste

Generators of liquid cannabis waste concentrate or extract must properly classify and characterize the waste to determine if it is hazardous or non-hazardous. Hazardous waste is subject to the applicable hazardous waste management requirements outlined in the [Waste Control Regulation \(AR 192/1996\)](#) and the [Alberta User Guide for Waste Managers](#).

Cannabis wastes that must be characterized and classified include, but are not limited to:

- Wastes from cannabis flowers, trim and solid plant material used to create a cannabis extract;
- Flammable solvents or chemicals used in the production of retail cannabis concentrate or extract; and
- Discarded cannabis plant waste, spent solvents and laboratory wastes from any cannabis processing or laboratory testing.

Liquid cannabis waste concentrate or extract classified and characterized as hazardous waste can be disposed of in a deepwell or sent to a hazardous waste treatment facility.

Non-hazardous liquid cannabis waste may be either sent to a local wastewater treatment plant for treatment or disposed of via deepwell.

## Liquid Cannabis Waste Management Methods

Liquid Waste	Characterized and Classified Waste	Disposal Options
Liquid concentrate or extract	If non-hazardous, work with your local wastewater treatment plant or deepwell	Wastewater treatment facility or deepwell
	If hazardous, dispose of at a hazardous waste treatment facility or deepwell	Deepwell or hazardous waste treatment facility

### Solid Cannabis Waste

Non-hazardous solid cannabis waste generated from homegrown cannabis, medical cannabis, retail cannabis and cannabis products must be made **unusable and unrecognizable** by grinding the cannabis solid waste and mixing it with at least an equal amount of other non-cannabis material prior to disposal. The decision on what material to mix with the waste should be based on where the cannabis waste will be disposed.

### Solid Cannabis Waste Management Methods

Cannabis Waste	Materials used to render cannabis waste unusable and unrecognizable	Disposal Options
Cannabis plant waste and useable cannabis	Mix with leaf and yard waste, food waste, wood chips, animal manure, grease or other compostable oil waste	Class I or II Compost Facility or Anaerobic digester
	Mix with cat litter, sand, plastic waste or sawdust	Class II Landfill
	If treated or processed in a way that makes the material hazardous, manage as hazardous waste. Mix with cat litter, sand, plastic waste or sawdust	Class I Landfill

## Making Solid Cannabis Waste Unusable and Unrecognizable

Materials used to make cannabis waste **unusable and unrecognizable** fall into two categories: **compostable waste** and **non-compostable waste**.

### Compostable Mixed Waste

Grinding, mixing and incorporating cannabis waste with any non-consumable, solid wastes listed below such that the resulting mixture is **at least 50 per cent non-cannabis waste**:

- Leaf and yard waste;
- Food waste;
- Animal manure;
- Wood chips;
- Grease or other compostable oil waste; or
- Wastes approved by Alberta Environment and Parks.

The resulting compostable cannabis waste mixture must be deposited at an authorized Class I or II compost facility or anaerobic digester for processing.

### Non-compostable mixed waste

Mixing cannabis waste with any of the following non-cannabis waste materials listed below such that the resulting mixture is **at least 50 per cent non-cannabis waste**:

- Cat litter;
- Plastic waste;
- Sand;
- Saw dust; or
- Wastes approved by Alberta Environment and Parks.

## Useful Resources and Links

- In Alberta, the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act* and Regulations are the legislations that gives [Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission \(AGLC\)](#) authority for regulating private retail cannabis licensing, distribution and operation of the online cannabis store on behalf of the Alberta government.
- [Waste Control Regulation](#)
- [Alberta User Guide for Waste Managers](#)
- [Cannabis Act](#)

### Contact Information

Environment and Parks Information Centre  
Toll Free in Alberta: 310-3773  
Email: [AEP.InfoCentre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AEP.InfoCentre@gov.ab.ca)