

## Cosmetic Product Disposal for Retailers and Distributors



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### Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act and your business

Washington’s Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act (TFCA) restricts the use of [nine chemicals and chemical classes](#)<sup>1</sup> in cosmetic products after **January 1, 2025**. Review this information to understand your responsibilities. Knowing your business needs can expand your disposal options and help prevent harmful chemicals from entering Washington’s environment.

### TFCA at a glance (for businesses)

1. Cosmetic products made in, distributed to, or sold in Washington State must comply with TFCA.
2. You can’t distribute, use in services, or sell cosmetic products obtained after **January 1, 2025**, if they contain restricted chemicals.
3. Through **December 31, 2025**, you may sell or use in services cosmetic products that were in your possession before **January 1, 2025**, even if they contain restricted chemicals. This is the **sell-through period**.
4. The sell-through period only applies to “**in-state retailers**” and their “**existing stock**” as defined in [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) 173-339](#).<sup>2</sup>

### What should I do with leftover products starting in 2026?

After December 31, 2025, you must remove unsold products from services and shelves even if you obtained them before January 1, 2025.

You’ll need to decide if you’ll dispose of them, temporarily store them for disposal, or redistribute them out of Washington State.



**You can’t donate cosmetic products with restricted chemicals, including to reuse stores.**

| Product Description   | Can I use or sell these products?  | What should I do between now and Dec. 31, 2025?  | What should I do starting Jan. 1, 2026?  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Cosmetic products containing restricted chemicals in your possession and physically located in Washington State before Jan. 1, 2025</b>      | <b>Yes.</b> Your business can sell, use in services, and distribute these items through Dec. 31, 2025 (the sell-through period). | Your business should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sell or use these products in services.</li> <li>• Redistribute these products to stores outside Washington.</li> </ul> | <b>The sell-through period is over.</b> Your business must remove remaining products from shelves or services. You should dispose of these products, temporarily store them for disposal, or redistribute them outside Washington. |
| <b>Cosmetic products containing restricted chemicals in your possession and physically located in Washington State on or after Jan. 1, 2025</b> | <b>No.</b> Your business needs to remove these products from shelves and services, or redistribute them outside Washington.      | Your business should prepare these products for disposal or redistribution outside Washington.   | Your business should have these products disposed of or redistributed outside Washington.  |

<sup>1</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/TFCA-Compliance>

<sup>2</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-339&full=true>

## How to dispose of cosmetics with restricted chemicals

To check for restricted chemicals, look at product ingredient lists or review information on the safety data sheets (SDS). You can also reach out to the manufacturer or test the cosmetic product at a laboratory.

Washington law regulates waste with chemicals that are harmful to human health and the environment. Many businesses generate dangerous waste, including cosmetology businesses and retailers—their dangerous waste could include cosmetics with restricted chemicals, alcohol-based sanitizers, and cleaning chemicals. You must manage **dangerous waste** and dispose of it properly.



**You cannot flush dangerous waste down a drain or pour it onto the ground.**

### Are my cosmetics dangerous waste?

**Ecology cannot determine if your cosmetics are dangerous waste for you.**

If you have cosmetics with restricted chemicals, then you must determine if they are dangerous waste through a process called **designation**. You may also assume that cosmetics with restricted chemicals are dangerous waste and manage them following the [Dangerous Waste Regulations](#).<sup>3</sup>

### Your waste designation, management, and disposal responsibilities

You are responsible for designating your business waste to determine if it is dangerous waste. Different waste management and disposal requirements may apply. Some general factors to consider are 1) how much dangerous waste you generate during a calendar month, and 2) whether you regularly generate dangerous waste or just need to dispose of waste during a one time [episodic event](#).<sup>4</sup>

Additional Ecology guidance for determining your dangerous waste responsibilities:

- [Dangerous waste basics](#)<sup>5</sup> for businesses, and our [Dangerous waste designation guide](#).<sup>6</sup>
- Visit our page on [small quantity generators](#).<sup>7</sup> Small quantity generators generally produce less than 220 pounds of dangerous waste per month (examples: a 55-gallon drum half full of liquid, or a 30-gallon garbage bin three-quarters full of liquid). For dangerous wastes that are extremely toxic in small amounts, the monthly limit is 2.2 pounds.
- You may [hire a waste service provider](#)<sup>8</sup> to help you properly manage dangerous waste.

[Contact your regional Ecology office](#)<sup>9</sup> to get in touch with your local compliance team.



Consumer Product Compliance Team  
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To request an ADA accommodation, email [HWTRPubs@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:HWTRPubs@ecy.wa.gov), call (360) 407-6700, or dial 711 to Telecommunication Relay for services such as TTY. Visit [ecology.wa.gov/ADA](http://ecology.wa.gov/ADA) for more information.

<sup>3</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/EpisodicGeneration>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/DWBasics>

<sup>6</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2304006.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/SQG>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/DWContractors>

<sup>9</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/contact-us/region-contacts>