

Environmental Assistance: A DEQ Priority

Idaho's environmental laws and rules affect all businesses, large and small. Although they can be complex and sometimes difficult to understand, they are important tools to help protect our air, water, and land resources. Complying with environmental regulations can increase productivity, create safer working conditions, lower operating costs, and reduce future liability.

This brochure provides basic information on common environmental requirements that may apply to your business or industry. The following information on how to comply with environmental laws and rules is available on the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's website:

Permitting Assistance

Permits limit the amount of pollutants that may be safely emitted or discharged as a regular part of business operations. DEQ issues air quality, wastewater reuse, and hazardous waste management permits.

Small Business Assistance

Environmental assistance is available to small businesses throughout Idaho through a partnership between DEQ and the Idaho Small Business Development Center.

Pollution Prevention Assistance

Pollution prevention, or P2, aims to prevent the initial generation or reduce the toxicity of wastes and pollutants. P2 pays!

Industry-Specific Assistance

- Auto body and auto repair shops
- Construction industry
- Dental offices
- Dry cleaners
- Electroplating and anodizing operations
- Hospitals
- Hot-mix asphalt plants
- Printshops
- Rock crushers
- Salvage yards

Conferences and Workshops

Periodically DEQ hosts conferences, trainings, and workshops on environmental topics to share information on air quality, water quality, and waste management issues of interest and concern.

For More Information

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

State Office

1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502

Regional Offices

Boise

1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

Lewiston

1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

Coeur d'Alene

2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

Pocatello

444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

Idaho Falls

900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

Twin Falls

650 Addison Ave. W,
Suite 110
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

Web Resources

Environmental Assistance and Resources

www.deq.idaho.gov/assistance-resources

Pollution Prevention

www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution-prevention-for-businesses

Small Business Assistance

www.deq.idaho.gov/small-business-solutions

Compliance and Enforcement

www.deq.idaho.gov/compliance-enforcement



Printed on recycled paper; DEQ July 2013. PID 0205, CA 30060. Costs associated with this publication are available from the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code.

Basic Environmental Regulations: What Every Facility in Idaho Needs to Know



Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov



Air Quality Regulations

Emissions

- Businesses in Idaho that emit, or have the potential to emit, pollutants into the air are required to have an air quality permit from DEQ. Permits are issued when new facilities begin operation and when existing facilities are modified. (Exemptions may apply.)

www.deq.idaho.gov/air-permitting-overview

- Visible emissions are comprised of particulate matter, such as smoke, soot, dust, and fly ash. Visible emissions from stacks must be controlled. If emissions (other than water vapor) are visible from stacks, a violation may exist. Training is available to assist businesses in measuring emissions from stacks to determine if they are in compliance with air quality requirements.

www.deq.idaho.gov/visible-emissions

Dust

- Fugitive dust is particulate matter suspended in the air primarily from soil that has been disturbed by wind or human activities, such as earthmoving and traffic on unpaved surfaces. (It is not emitted from vents, chimneys, or stacks.) All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent fugitive dust from becoming airborne. Reasonable precautions include applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials.

www.deq.idaho.gov/fugitive-dust

Burning

- It is illegal to conduct open burning of trade waste and many other materials in Idaho. Trade waste includes waste generated from construction or demolition, such as lumber, shingles, plywood, insulation, cardboard, and plastics, or the operation of a business, trade, or industry.

www.deq.idaho.gov/trade-waste

Waste Storage and Disposal Regulations

Hazardous Waste

- Facilities are responsible for determining whether any wastes they generate are hazardous and, if so, calculating monthly amounts.

www.deq.idaho.gov/hazardous-waste

- Hazardous waste generators are classified and regulated according to the amount of waste generated.

www.deq.idaho.gov/hazardous-waste-generator-status

- Small and large quantity generators of hazardous waste are required to report annually to DEQ on the types and quantities of hazardous waste generated, shipped, and stored.

www.deq.idaho.gov/hazardous-waste-reporting

- Hazardous wastes must be stored and disposed of properly. Storage containers must be in good condition and properly labeled, with lids closed, and open to inspection from all sides. It is illegal to dispose of hazardous waste by burning, spilling on or burying in the ground, or allowing to evaporate. Burning wire to recover copper is prohibited as well.

www.deq.idaho.gov/hazardous-waste

Used Oil

- Used oil must be stored in tanks or containers that are in good condition and do not leak. "Used Oil" must be clearly marked and visible on all above-ground oil storage tanks, containers, and fill pipes for underground tanks.
- It is illegal to dispose of used oil in a surface impoundment, such as a ditch, pond, or low spot.
- It is illegal to apply used oil as a dust suppressant.
- Used oil filters must be thoroughly drained prior to disposal.
- All releases or spills of used oil must be cleaned up within 24 hours. If cleanup cannot be completed within 24 hours or the spill exceeds 25 gallons, notify the Idaho State Communications Office at (800) 832-8000.

www.deq.idaho.gov/used-oil

Water Quality Regulations

Drinking Water Systems

- DEQ regulates systems that provide drinking water to 25 or more individuals over 6 months per year.
- It is illegal to use or store fertilizers, portable containers of petroleum products, or other toxic or hazardous materials on well lots.
- Sources must be protected from contamination and have adequate drainage. (Leaking valves or pipes and water ponding are prohibited.)
- Well houses and sources must be protected from entry by unauthorized personnel.
- Modifications must be approved by DEQ.

www.deq.idaho.gov/pws-switchboard

Wastewater Reuse

- Businesses (except feedlots, dairies, and mines) are required to obtain a reuse permit from DEQ before applying land-treated wastewater or constructing, modifying, or operating a reuse facility.
- It is illegal to allow spray or runoff of wastewater to extend beyond an application site boundary.
- It is illegal to allow significant wastewater ponding that supports vectors.
- Odors must be managed through proper design, operation, and maintenance of reuse facilities.

www.deq.idaho.gov/wastewater-reuse-permitting

Your local DEQ regional office is a great resource for technical and compliance assistance. (See contact information on back.)