

GUIDELINES FOR FILTER DISPOSAL

The use of air filtration systems in electronics assembly generates spent filters which may or may not be contaminated with hazardous material. Depending on the type of contamination certain disposal methods apply.

For solid waste to be classified hazardous, one of the following product characteristics must apply: ignitable / corrosive / reactive / toxic.

Regarding the classification of spent filters, we have received from waste management companies the following guidelines and recommended filter disposal methods:

A. Filters from Hand Soldering

If the filters are contaminated from solder fumes produced by hand soldering, they can be disposed of in a **non-hazardous** landfill. This applies if the following conditions are met.

- The filter contamination consists of rosin material and acids (in small quantities) which are vaporized during the solder process.
- There is no metal content in the filters.

Another option for disposal of these types of spent filters is by non-hazardous incineration.

B. Filters from Reflow Soldering

If the filters are contaminated from solder fumes from a reflow oven, they can be disposed of in a **non-hazardous** landfill. This applies if the following conditions are met.

- The filter contamination consists of rosin products and/or solidified acids in low quantities.
- There is no metal content, such as lead, in the filters.

Another option for disposal of these types of spent filters is by non-hazardous incineration.

C. Filters from Wave Soldering

If the filters are contaminated from wave solder fumes produced in a wave solder unit, they have to be disposed of as **hazardous** material either by shredding or encapsulating. This applies if the following conditions are met.

- The contamination consists of acid residues from flux and lead-oxide or tin-oxide dusts from the solder.

D. Filters saturated with Solvents (Activated Carbon)

If the activated carbon filters are saturated with flammable vapors such as isopropyl alcohol, they have to be disposed of as **hazardous** waste by incineration. A lab test for the flash point is recommended.

Disclaimer:

The information provided is a guideline only. We do advise that you contact your local Department of Natural Resources to obtain further and other applicable regulations.