

Organization Information

Environmental Management

Waste Management: Damaged, Leaking, and Nonmailable Parcels

Damaged or leaking parcels and parcels containing nonmailable hazardous materials are not permitted in the mailstream. Hazardous items that are disposed of locally could be regulated by environmental laws and require proper waste management. Failure to properly dispose of regulated items could result in a regulatory agency notice of violation.

Potentially regulated materials include:

- Aerosol cans.
- Batteries.
- Cleaning supplies and other chemicals, including bleach, hand sanitizer, and nail polish remover.
- Compressed gases.
- Drugs and pharmaceuticals.
- Fertilizers and fuels, including lighter fluid.
- Lamps.
- Oils, paints, perfumes, and pesticides.
- Solvents and thinners.

Use the following guidance when handling damaged, leaking, or nonmailable parcels:

- Once identified, bring damaged or leaking parcels (or parcels containing nonmailable hazardous materials) to a designated re-wrap or hazardous material mail staging area for assessment.

- If parcels contain waste, inventory and document the classification and quantity of each parcel. Common waste classifications are non-hazardous, hazardous, universal, state-regulated, and medical or infectious waste.
- Store hazardous materials and other regulated wastes in a container that is structurally sound, liquid-tight, closed, and clearly labeled. Do not mix incompatible materials.
- Using eBuy+, arrange for pick-up and disposal of hazardous and regulated waste parcels using the appropriate USPS® National Waste Management Service Contractors.
- Maintain waste classification and off-site shipment and disposal records.

For more information about the waste classification process and proper waste disposal, review the *Damaged, Leaking and NonMailable Parcels Waste Management Environmental Compliance Bulletin* at blue.usps.gov/sustainability/environmental/_pdf/ecb-mail-derived-waste.pdf.

For state-specific waste disposal requirements or additional questions, consult your designated USPS environmental contact at blue.usps.gov/sustainability/contact.htm.

— *Environmental Affairs and Corporate Sustainability, Corporate Affairs, 1-26-23*