
Household Hazardous Materials Permit Information

Iowa Waste Reduction Center / University of Northern Iowa
319-273-8905 or 1-800-422-3109

Frequently asked questions:

Do I need a permit if I...

Do oil changes but do not sell oil over the counter?

If the consumer is charged according to the number of quarts used, yes; if it is simply billed as an oil change, and no other HHMs are sold by the retailer, no.

Sell car wax at my car wash?

If the wax is part of the wash cycle, no; if the wax is sold from a vending machine, yes.

Sell only a small amount of these products?

Yes.

Sell only to farmers?

Yes.

Use HHMs in the products I make but do not sell any HHMs (for example, those who make and sell handcraft items but do not sell materials for making crafts)?

No.

Do not sell on a retail basis from this location (for example, corporate headquarters)?

No.

Sell something not specifically listed?

Call the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for assistance, 515/281-4367

What does the Retailers Consumer Education Program (RCEP) consist of?

State law requires retailers to educate consumers about HHM by posting signs and making brochures available. You will receive more information on this when you receive your permit.

Why does my permit expire June 30 when I paid the full price in January?

As per Iowa Code, all HHM Permits expire June 30 of each year. Permits are nonrefundable and are not prorated for a partial year.

Where do the funds from the permit go?

Funding generated from the permit fees is used to provide Toxic Cleanup Days across Iowa. These events offer Iowans the opportunity to properly dispose of their HHMs. In 1999 alone 127,185 pounds of HHMs were collected at 13 events.

Household Hazardous Materials General Awareness Grants and Retailers' Consumer Education Program Grants are also funded by permit fees. General Awareness Grants are awarded to organizations that seek to educate the public on the use, storage and disposal of HHMs and safer alternatives. The RCEP grant is available to those who wish to educate retailers about the requirements of the Retailers' Consumer Education Program.

Exceptions

Retailers who sell general use pesticides labeled for agricultural or lawn and garden use with gross annual pesticide sales of greater than \$10,000 **AND** do not sell any other HHMs are not required to have a permit. Those with gross sales of pesticides of less than \$10,000 are required to obtain a permit.

Manufacturers or distributors that utilize independent agents to sell person to person at a consumer's home may purchase one permit at a fee of \$25 for the first \$3 million in sales of household hazardous materials, plus \$100 for each subsequent increment of \$3 million in sales of HHM, up to a maximum of \$3,000. For example, a company that sells door to door with \$7 million in gross sales of HHM would owe \$125 (\$25 for the first \$3 million and \$100 for the second increment of \$3 million).