

Industrial Solid Waste Fact Sheet

Spent Carbon Filters- Category 12

Definition

Activated carbon consists of carbonaceous source materials (such as coconut-shells, coal, wood, and peat) that have undergone a physical and/or chemical activation process. Due to their ability to absorb and adsorb contaminants in various media, activated carbon filters are frequently used to treat drinking water or contaminated groundwater and can be effective at removing vapors and particulates from other media adsorption processes. Spent activated carbon filters are many times able to be re-activated for reuse or may be recycled.

Special Disposal Conditions

The waste material will be directed to the Kalmar Landfill or Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy Facility, depending on the combustion characteristics of the material (see below).

Generator Requirements

If necessary, special generator requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Generators must ensure that the waste material is not considered to be a solid ignitable waste.

Procedures

Typical Delivery types

- large filters on flatbed trucks
- small filters in roll-off boxes or dump trucks

Background

Granulated activated carbon consists of carbonaceous source materials (such as coconut-shells, coal, wood, and peat) that have undergone a physical and/or chemical activation process. Due to their exceptional ability to absorb and adsorb contaminants in various media, activated carbon filters are frequently used to treat drinking water or contaminated groundwater and can be effective at removing vapors and particulates from other media adsorption processes. Spent activated carbon filters are many times able to be re-activated for reuse or may be recycled.

Disposal

If the waste material is unable to be reused or recycled, it will be directed to the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy -Facility (OWEF) for disposal. If the waste material is non-combustible, it will be directed to the Olmsted County Kalmar Landfill.

Testing Requirements

Unless complete documentation exists to characterize the waste material (through knowledge of the waste and its characteristics), waste generators must evaluate the waste using the Toxicity Characteristics Leaching Procedure (TCLP) for those parameters (e.g., metals and volatile and semi-volatile organic constituents) that can reasonably be expected to be present. This testing is required to ensure 1) the waste material is not a regulated hazardous waste and 2) the waste material is acceptable for disposal at an Olmsted County solid waste management facility. **Generators must ensure that the waste material is not considered to be a solid ignitable waste.** If available, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) must be provided.

Documentation

A current, approved Industrial Solid Waste Evaluation Form must be on file with the Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department. The waste hauler must present a current, approved Non-Hazardous Industrial Solid Waste Tracking Form at the time of delivery.

Special Generator Requirements

If necessary, special generator requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.