

Frequently Asked Questions about Recycling, Disposal and Waste Classification of Beryllium FAQ 205

Can beryllium (Be) and products containing beryllium be recycled?

Yes. Beryllium can and is recycled by Materion Brush Inc. Products containing beryllium can also be recycled to recover the beryllium as well as other materials contained in the product. If you have questions regarding the recyclability of products containing beryllium or would like additional information on recycling beryllium, please call 419-862-4178.

Can beryllium and products containing beryllium be disposed as a solid waste?

Yes. Beryllium and products containing beryllium can be disposed of as many other materials. When beryllium and products containing beryllium are no longer recyclable and declared solid wastes, they must be labeled, managed and disposed of in accordance with federal, state and local requirements.

Is beryllium or products containing beryllium classified as a hazardous waste?

No. Under federal regulations and most state regulations, beryllium or products containing beryllium that are no longer recyclable and declared solid wastes are **not** classified as hazardous waste due to the content of beryllium. These materials may be classified as hazardous waste due to the presence of other hazardous waste constituents such as cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury and silver.

In addition to the federally regulated hazardous waste constituents, the State of California lists antimony, beryllium, cobalt, copper, molybdenum, nickel, thallium, vanadium and zinc and their compounds as hazardous waste constituents when present above specified concentrations. In the case of beryllium and beryllium compounds, the threshold concentration is 75 mg/kg. However, if the material is destined to be recycled, it need only be managed in accordance with applicable California regulations relating to storage, treatment and transportation until the material is recycled.

I have heard that beryllium powder is a hazardous waste if disposed. Is this true?

Yes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has classified discarded beryllium powder as a hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In Section 40 CFR 261.33(e) of RCRA, beryllium powder is considered hazardous waste when it is in the form of a “discarded commercial chemical product, off-specification species, container residue and spill residue, thereof”. This designation only applies to commercially pure products or manufacturing intermediates in which beryllium powder is the “sole active ingredient”. Due to the limited scope of this definition, we believe the only form of beryllium to which it applies is commercially pure metallic beryllium powder disposed of as a waste. Recycling is the preferred method for managing discarded beryllium powder and Materion Brush Inc. is capable of recycling beryllium powder.

How can I obtain assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact your sales representative; our sales department at +1-216-486-4200; or the Product Safety Hotline at 1-800-862-4118 (in the U.S.) or +1-216-383-4019 (outside the U.S.). This document, as well as other product specific safety data information, can be found at www.materion.com. Additionally, information on the Beryllium Worker Protection Model and process specific safety guidance can be found in the Interactive Guide to Working Safely with Beryllium and Beryllium-containing Materials at www.berylliumsafety.com.