Complex local, state, and federal regulations—along with varying definitions of hazardous waste—make it more challenging than ever to comply with the evolving landscape of waste. Recently, regulations governing the disposal of sensitive materials (such as HIPAA, RCRA, OSHA, and MWMA) have grown more stringent and enforcement has increased.

These changes have resulted in escalating multi-million-dollar fines, costly corrective action plans, and public relations nightmares. From Home Depot to Big Lots, companies in multiple industries are making headlines for settlements, and many organizations are renewing their focus on compliance and privacy programs.

Building Your Plan

An effective compliance program is complex, but taking the first steps can be simple. Savvy organizations that can demonstrate proactive risk mitigation will often fare far better than those who can’t. In fact, most large fines rarely penalize improper disposal alone, including hefty additional fines for the lack of safeguards and process control to prevent these violations.

These five steps will help you build a strong waste compliance program:

1. Comprehensive Risk Assessment
2. Documentation of Follow-Up Risk Management Activities
3. Documentation of Policies and Procedures
4. Evidence of Implementation
5. Ongoing Education and Enforcement

A waste audit program is the foundation of each of these steps. Whether you seek to better understand your problem areas, document your risk management activities, or track the impact of ongoing education and enforcement—waste audits provide a formal, quantifiable metric to measure your success.

Regulated Materials Found in Waste Audits

**Hazardous Waste:**
Cosmetics, shampoo, cleaning products, sanitizing wipes, aerosols, paint

**E-Waste:**
Electronics, batteries, lightbulbs

**Sensitive Information:**
Personal health information, financial data
Why Partner with ENGIE Insight

For companies with a large, distributed portfolio of sites, waste audits can seem like a daunting task, requiring deep regulatory knowledge, waste auditing expertise, and credible reporting from a third-party.

ENGIE Insight helps clients address the unique regulatory challenges facing industries heavily impacted by waste regulations, such as healthcare, hospitality, banking, and retail. Leveraging a deep understanding of federal, state, and municipal regulations, ENGIE Insight helps businesses not only assess their risks, but also develop actionable programs and measure their success over time.

The ENGIE Insight Difference

ENGIE Insight’s unique approach to waste auditing focuses on:

- **Scientific Auditing Methods.** ENGIE Insight’s auditing methods are designed to ensure representative sampling and accurate measurement through honed, consistent auditing practices.

- **Flexible, Tailored Process.** Most audits reveal far more than initially expected. Our audit team tailors each audit to the specific requests of your organization, while remaining flexible on the day of the audit to bring back information that can drive operational improvements.

- **Efficient, Independent Auditing & Reporting.** In many cases, companies want to demonstrate action quickly. ENGIE Insight delivers formal documentation of initial findings within less than one week of each audit.

- **Behavioral Program Consulting.** Our team seeks to not only collect data, but improve outcomes. ENGIE Insight’s program implementation experts help clients design policies and procedures, risk management activities, and ongoing education and enforcement programs to ensure compliance.

- **Waste and Regulatory Expertise.** Leveraging insights gleaned from over 350 audits conducted in the past year alone, close relationships with local inspectors, and ongoing training, ENGIE Insight delivers the necessary professionalism and expertise to conduct an effective audit program.

If we’ve learned one thing, it’s that our clients are consistently surprised by what their employees and customers are throwing away. You don’t know what you don’t know, so contact your ENGIE Insight representative today to uncover what your waste reveals.