

What Should Schools Do With Expired Hand Sanitizer?



Organizations across Arizona acquired large amounts of hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of that hand sanitizer is now expiring. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer typically contains at least 60 percent alcohol by volume. This high alcohol content gives hand sanitizer the ability to catch fire and makes it an ignitable hazardous waste when discarded.

WHAT NOT TO DO:



Do not pour expired hand sanitizer down the drain.

Clean Water Act regulations prohibit the discharge of what would otherwise be an ignitable hazardous waste.



Do not put expired hand sanitizer in the garbage.



Do not take expired hand sanitizer to a household hazardous waste collection site. Schools and businesses are not allowed to utilize these hazardous waste collection sites.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?



Recycling & Reclamation

The EPA has developed guidelines to help identify legitimate recycling opportunities, including reclamation. Visit ADEQ for more information.



Disposal as a hazardous waste

If recycling or reclamation isn't possible, then expired hand sanitizer must be disposed of as hazardous waste.



The State of Arizona has rules and regulations on how expired or discarded hand sanitizer is managed. ADEQ has created a fact sheet that will guide you through options and resources to dispose of expired or waste hand sanitizer.

Visit: azdeq.gov/handsanitizer