



Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

In a Nutshell

These rules came out in April 2016. Before them, the previous rules were from 2000. These rules focus on:

- Decentralized approaches to waste
- Inclusion of waste pickers
- Handling sanitary wastes
- Holding generators responsible and providing more clarity
- Extend to rural India too

Overall, the rules do not allow any waste that can be composted or recycled to go into landfills. It also does not allow hazardous domestic waste to go into landfills. In fact, although briefly, it even talks about reducing waste. Bins for storage of bio-degradable wastes shall be painted green, those for storage of recyclable wastes shall be painted white and those for storage of other wastes shall be painted black.

The way that the rules are laid out, each stakeholder is allocated specific responsibilities. Pollution Boards in each state have to ensure that the standards in the Rules are being met, and report to the Central Pollution Control Board. Below are some details. Do see which groups you are included in so you know what is expected of you and how to do it well, as well as monitor others:

Duties of Waste Generators



This includes you, me, hotels, schools and everyone who generates waste. Everyone is expected to:

- Segregate and store the waste generated by them in three separate streams namely bio-degradable, non-bio-degradable and domestic hazardous wastes in suitable bins. Segregated waste should also be handed over to authorized waste pickers or waste collectors.
- Securely wrap used sanitary waste such as diapers, sanitary pads etc., in the pouches provided by the manufacturers or brand owners of these products, or in a suitable wrapping material as instructed by the local authorities. This waste should be placed in the bin for dry waste or non- bio-degradable waste.
- Construction and demolition waste should be stored separately on the persons premises when generated. Dispose as per the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016
- Store horticulture and garden waste separately on the persons own premises and dispose as per the directions of the current local body. (Composting such waste is easy and odorless).

- Never burn or bury waste in streets, open public spaces, outside the personal premise, or in the drain or water bodies. This also means that you cannot dump pooja items in rivers.
- Always take permission three working days in advance and hand over segregated waste to the local waste collector when organizing events of 100 people or more.
- Always pay user fees. Your waste cannot be picked up for free.
- Street vendors must keep containers or bins for waste disposal.



States and union territories usually have an Urban Secretary, who has specific duties allocated:

- Prepare a state policy and solid waste management strategy for the state or the union territory in consultation with stakeholders, including representative of waste pickers, self-help groups and similar groups working in the field of waste management one year from the date of notification of these rules. The policy must lay emphasis on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery. Also, these state policies and strategies should acknowledge the primary role played by the informal sector of waste pickers, waste collectors and recycling industry in reducing waste. They should moreover provide broad guidelines regarding integration of waste picker or informal waste collectors in the waste management system.
- Direct the town planning department and local bodies to ensure that a separate space for segregation, storage and decentralised processing of solid waste is demarcated in the development plan. This should be done for group housing or commercial, institutional or any other non-residential complex exceeding 200 dwelling or having a plot area exceeding 5,000 square meters.
- Ensure that state actors are trained in the issue.



Local authorities and village Panchayats of census towns and urban agglomerations have to additionally:

- Arrange for door to door collection of segregated solid waste from all households including slums and informal settlements, commercial, institutional and other non-residential premises. From multi-storage buildings, large commercial complexes, malls and housing complexes, etc.
- Establish a system to recognise organisations of waste pickers or informal waste collectors and promote as well as establish a system for integration of these authorised waste pickers and waste collectors to facilitate their participation in solid waste management, including door to door collection of waste.
- Set up material recovery facilities or secondary storage facilities with sufficient space for sorting of recyclable materials. Do this to enable informal or authorised waste pickers and waste collectors to separate recyclables from the waste, and to provide access to waste pickers and recyclers for the collection of segregated recyclable waste.
- Collect horticulture, parks and garden waste separately and process in the parks and gardens, as far as possible.
- Establish waste deposition centres for domestic hazardous waste and give directions for waste generators to deposit domestic hazardous wastes at this centre for safe disposal. Such facility shall be established in a city or town in a manner that one centre is set up for the area of twenty square kilometers or

part thereof and notify the timings of receiving domestic hazardous waste at such centres.

- Ensure safe storage and transportation of the domestic hazardous waste to the hazardous waste disposal facility or as may be directed by the State Pollution Control Board or the Pollution Control Committee.
- Direct street sweepers not to burn tree leaves collected from street sweeping and store them separately and handover to the waste collectors or agencies authorised by the local body.
- Provide training on solid waste management to waste pickers and waste collectors.
- Involve communities in waste management and the promotion of home composting, bio-gas generation and decentralised processing of waste.
- Phase out the use of chemical fertiliser in two years (by 2018) and use compost in all parks, gardens maintained by it and wherever it is possible.
- Provide incentives to recycling initiatives made by the informal waste recycling sector.
- And of course, report what has been achieved to the Secretary, Urban or Rural Development as appropriate and from them, the reporting must go to the State Pollution Control Board.
- In hilly areas, tourists must pay a fee to make solid waste management sustainable.



Manufacturers or brand owners of disposable products and sanitary napkins and diapers are included too. They must:

- Provide necessary financial assistance to local authorities for the establishment of a waste management system.
- If a product is non-biodegradable, put in place a system to collect back the packages
- Explore the possibility of using all recyclable materials in products or, for instance, provide a pouch or wrapper for disposing napkins or diapers along with the packet of their sanitary products.
- All such manufacturers, brand owners or marketing companies shall educate people of wrapping and disposal of their products.



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