

Costco Reaches Quick Settlement On Alleged Waste Handling Violations

By: Tharp and Howell

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California businesses need to comply with state environmental laws in addition to those promulgated by the Federal Government and enforced by the EPA. Costco learned this lesson recently when more than two dozen counties in the state filed suit against the giant retailer for “[alleged violations when storing, handling and disposing of hazardous materials, including pharmaceutical waste.](#)”

The hazardous materials at issue included pool chlorine, nicotine patches and bleach.

Costco moved quickly, settling the lawsuit a mere two days after it was filed, agreeing to pay \$3.6 million and take steps to properly store, handle, transport and dispose of regulated waste.

The importance of companies and business handling hazardous materials and waste to assure they meet all handling and disposal requirements cannot be overstated, including permit requirements.

The [website](#) of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control is a valuable resource for state laws on these matters. It includes, among other things, the following:

- Hazardous Waste Facility Permitting Information
- Fact Sheets on Permits
- Hazardous Waste Identification and Definitions
- Compliance and Enforcement Information
- Links to Publications and Forms

Tharpe and Howell can help businesses navigate the regulatory and permitting complexities on hazardous waste management and disposal, and can help you develop an up-to-date approach to assuring compliance and protecting your business.

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