

# Finding Safer Ways to Deal with Hazardous Materials.

## The NEW Waste Management.

**P**roperly disposing of hazardous materials can pose a major challenge to many manufacturers. The costs of Haz-Mat operations can be particularly onerous when toxic substances are mixed with other materials, such as common soil.

For example, in 1999, Helena Chemical, near Tampa, Fla., found itself faced with the problem of disposing of approximately 10,000 tons of soil contaminated with toxic residue from pesticides. The soil's contamination level proved to be so high that the only readily available disposal method was incineration, a process that cost anywhere from \$400 to \$600 per ton, compared to \$160 per ton for landfill at an approved hazardous waste facility.



Looking to significantly lower its disposal costs, Helena Chemical turned to Chemical Waste Management, a division of Waste Management, Inc., with which it had worked on previous occasions. Waste Management experts studied the company's situation and cost concerns. Their solution: bioremediation, the process of breaking

down toxins by introducing special microorganisms that feed on such poisons.

Working with experts from Waste Management's bioremediation division, Chemical Waste Management succeeded in securing the first-ever hazardous waste bioremediation permit from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. They proceeded to build a \$2 million bioremediation pad at the Chemical Waste Management Facility in Carlyss, La., where the Helena Chemical soil was received for treatment. Waste Management regularly mixed special fertilizers, nutrients, and microorganisms into the soil to promote the health and vitality of the beneficial bacteria. Although time-consuming, the cost to Helena Chemical of decontaminating the pesticide-laced soil in this manner averaged under \$250 per ton, about half the price of incineration. In addition, the pad was subsequently used for other bioremediation projects, some of which were completed in as little as four weeks.

**Major haz-mat problems take a company big enough to employ microscopic solutions.**

*From everyday collection to environmental protection, look to the NEW Waste Management.*