

# Clean Harbors— Environmental Technician I

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## BACKGROUND

### Who is Clean Harbors

Clean Harbors provides environmental and industrial services including hazardous waste disposal, emergency response services, and oil and gas services.

### Mission Statement

Maintaining the Safest, Most Compliant Network of Environmental Operations.

### Commitment to Safety

Clean Harbors No.1 priority is safety. They promote this commitment with their initiative called Safety Starts with Me: Live it 3-6-5. This initiative involves their 3 Safety Philosophies, 6 Golden Rules of Safety, and 5 Good Reasons to be Safe.



### Internship Background

I interned as an Environmental Technician I at Clean Harbors Technical Services location in Denver, Colorado. I found this internship position on Handshake.

### Example of hazardous waste collected by Clean Harbors



## ON THE JOB

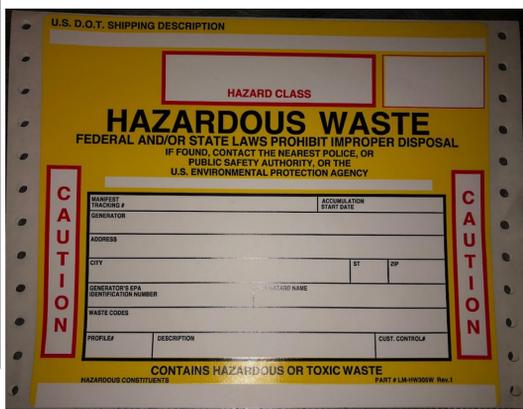
As an Environmental Technician, I worked closely with the technical services branch manager and the technical services coordinator. I also shadowed the customer service representative, onsite administrator, cleanpack chemists, and cleanpack specialists. My main duties changed depending on whether I was in the field or in the office.

### Office Duties

When I was in the office, my main duties differed day to day, however, my general duties each day included:

- o scanning completed job worksheets
- o inventorying supplies
- o ensuring proper billing was issued to customers
- o entering employee time
- o creating job folders which included:
  - o specific location of the hazardous waste pickup
  - o description of supplies necessary for each job
  - o customer contact information.
  - o Department of Transportation (DOT) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required paperwork including waste labels, manifests, and bill of lading.

### Example of a blank US DOT Hazardous Waste Label



### Field Duties

While in the field, most of my time was spend shadowing the cleanpack chemists and observing how they handle waste. I joined both cleanpack chemists and paintcare drivers on waste pickups. Although I was limited on the duties I could complete in the field, I did have the following duties while on waste pickups:

- o construct copak boxes to hold waste
- o aid chemists in organizing waste from retail sites
- o complete paperwork detailing what supplies were used, travel time, and on jobsite time
- o labeled waste with proper DOT label

### Clean Harbors Class B truck used during paint care pickups and hazardous waste pickups.



### Field Duties Continued

In addition to shadowing the cleanpack chemists and paintcare drivers, I also shadowed the cleanpack specialist, whose main duty was to create quotes for waste pickups. While shadowing the cleanpack specialist I had the following duties:

- o locate waste ingredients and note this for future waste code matching
- o locate UN numbers on wastes to determine the type of hazard contained in the waste

### Me at a job site with the cleanpack specialist searching for the UN number on waste.



### Accomplishments

I completed an online PowerPoint presentation in front of company executives where I had to describe each week of my internship and give recommendations for the branch and company.

### REFLECTION

Although my goal is not to work in the hazardous waste industry, my experience was very valuable and allowed me to learn about an extremely important environmental sector— hazardous waste management. This experience related to my future career aspirations because I gained professional experience in both the office and field environments, and I saw firsthand how environmental regulations impact companies.

### Label and manifest printers I used daily while in the office



### Moving Forward

Moving forward I hope to find an internship closer to home and in a different sector. I aspire to find a job that allows me to work in the field and in the office as this internship did. However, I hope to go a different direction with my career, getting into either the water management sector or city and regional planning sector.

### Recommendations

For other students interested in this internship, I would recommend that they get as much field experience as possible. Although both the field and office experience are important, the field experience was much more gratifying, challenging, and educational. Also, students interested in this internship should get out of their comfort zone and gain as much experience handling the waste as possible.

### Example of DOT corrosive label and UN number



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank everyone at the Technical Services Branch in Denver for allowing me to have a very educational internship, despite a very trying time.