

ENVIROSTOR FAQs

Frequently asked Questions & Answers

Q: What is EnviroStor?

A: The Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) EnviroStor database is an online search and Geographic Information System (GIS) tool for identifying sites that have known or potential contamination and facilities permitted to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. You can conduct searches by site/facility name, address, city, and county, EPA ID number, or EnviroStor ID number.

Q: How do I access EnviroStor?

A: The EnviroStor public webpage is located at: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov. If you need assistance with EnviroStor, please contact the EnviroStor Help Desk (email: envirostor@dtsc.ca.gov, phone: 1-877-7TOXICS (1-877-786-9427)).

Q: What type of information can be obtained from EnviroStor?

A: The EnviroStor database includes the following hazardous waste facilities and cleanup sites: Permitted Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs); Federal Superfund sites (National Priorities List (NPL)); State Response sites, including Military Facilities and State Superfund sites; Voluntary Cleanup sites; School sites; and Corrective Action sites. You can obtain information that includes site/facility name, site/facility type, status, address, any restricted use (recorded deed restrictions), past use(s) that caused contamination, potential contaminants of concern, potential environmental media affected, site history, last approved and in-progress permits, planned and completed site investigation and cleanup activities, and completed inspections and enforcement actions. For more information about site type and status, please refer to the [Glossary of Terms](#).

Q: What type of information is not included in EnviroStor?

A: The EnviroStor database does not include all statewide-contaminated sites. EnviroStor provides information on permitted hazardous waste facilities and on sites where DTSC oversaw or conducted investigation/remediation work. The following site/facilities types are not listed on the EnviroStor website:

- Sites where DTSC conducted an emergency removal at a former methamphetamine laboratory.
- Sites/Facilities where Federal, City, County or other State level agencies hold jurisdiction and DTSC was not involved, including facilities under the jurisdiction of the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).
- Electronic Waste (E-Waste) Facilities
- Hazardous Waste Generators
- Hazardous Waste Transporters
- Inspections and Enforcement information prior to 2009.

Q: I know DTSC has worked/is working on a Site/Facility, but why can't I find it?

A: Below are the most common reasons why you may not be able to find a site/facility in EnviroStor, and suggestions for how to modify your search:

- Your search parameters may be too narrow, try expanding your search parameters for better results. For example, instead of entering the exact street address, search by only the street name. Or start by searching by the zip code.
- If you are searching by Site Name and the system is not returning results, the site may have changed names or was entered into the system under a different name. For example, Pacific Gas and Electric may be entered into the database as "PG&E," "P G&E," "P G & E," "PG & E," or "Pacific Gas & Electric. Try searching by alternate names or a partial name. If searching by Site Name is not returning the expected results, you may also want to try a "Map Location of Interest" search to identify sites around an address.
- If searching by address, please note that sites located in unincorporated areas may not have an official address (such as abandoned mine sites). Additionally some sites may have been entered into the system without a street address. Try a 'Map Location of Interest' search to identify sites around the area.
- The site was given an incorrect latitude / longitude information, placing it at an incorrect location on the map. Try searching for the site using the "Site/Facility Search" tool using the Site Name or Address instead.
- DTSC may not be the "Lead-Agency" working on the site or facility. DTSC also provides support to sister agencies (Regional Water Quality Control Board or Cal Recycle) and to Certified Unified Program Agencies (County Lead Agencies). In these cases, DTSC does not generally track the project on EnviroStor.

[Tutorial for how to search EnviroStor](#)

Q: What is the difference between conducting a "Map Location of Interest" search versus using the "Site/Facility Search" or Advanced Search?

A: The "Map Location of Interest" search on the EnviroStor Home page allows you to conduct a map search for any sites/facilities located near the location you searched by. The "Site/Facility Search" and "Advanced Search" tools are designed to find a specific site/facility in EnviroStor.

[Tutorial for how to search EnviroStor](#)

Q: How can I search for contaminated sites/permited hazardous waste facilities near me?

A: From the EnviroStor Home page you can use the "Map Location of Interest" tool to perform a search by partial/full address, City, Zip Code, or County to obtain a listing of local sites and display those sites on the interactive map. Zooming in on the map will reduce the list of "Sites Currently Visible on Map" located below the map as only sites in the viewable map area are listed. The "Sites Currently Visible on Map"

listing, along with the icons on the map both provide links to detailed site/facility information.

[Tutorial for how to search EnviroStor](#)

Q: How can I search for a specific site/facility?

A: There are two search options for finding a specific site - "Site/Facility Search" or "Advanced Search." Both options are located under the "Tools" section of the left toolbar. The "Site/Facility Search" allows you to enter partial information, such as a site/facility name, address, City, Zip Code, or County to bring up a list of sites matching the entry. The "Advanced Search" includes the same fields found in the "Site/Facility Search", and provides additional fields you can query the system by. Depending on the Program Type you wish to search by, the additional fields can include: Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), Status, Program Type, DTSC Office, School District, Funding, National Priorities List, Special Program, Potential Contaminants of Concern, Past Use(s) that Caused Contamination, Potential Media Affected, and past Regulatory Actions.

[Tutorial for how to search EnviroStor](#)

[Tutorial for how to use the Advanced Search tool](#)

Q: I am interested in information about a specific property or area. Can the EnviroStor database tell me if the property is potentially contaminated?

A: You can search by full/partial address information using the Map Location of Interest tool to see if the property is included in EnviroStor. If the site/property is entered in EnviroStor, access the site detail information to view the current cleanup status. For cleanup status definitions, please refer to the [Glossary of Terms](#).

[Tutorial for how to locate the Cleanup Status](#)

[Tutorial for how to search EnviroStor](#)

NOTE: The absence of the site in EnviroStor does not mean the site is contamination-free. The EnviroStor database does not include ALL contaminated sites throughout California. Other State and local agencies maintain lists of contaminated properties under their jurisdiction. Also, if a contaminated property has not been reported, DTSC will have no way of knowing that the property is contaminated. The only way to be sure that a site does not have contamination is to have the site evaluated. For more information on environmental consultants, please consult source information like telephone directories or contact DTSC's Regulatory Assistance Office at (800) 72TOXIC (728-6942). From outside California, please call (916) 255-3545.

Q: What are some of the other search features?

A: Under the heading of “Reports” you can view and export results for the following canned reports: By Program (provides a list of all sites broken down by program); Mandated Reports (includes the Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List (Cortese) and Completed Sites); Senate District; Assembly District; Congressional District, Land Use Restrictions, Permitted Facilities, and Commercial Offsite Hazardous Waste Facilities.

[Tutorial for how to search EnviroStor](#)

Q: Can I search for a site using the APN (Assessor’s Parcel Number)?

A: Under the heading of “Tools,” click on the “Advanced Search” option and you can search for a site by entering the APN. However, this is not the best method to search for sites, since APNs are only available for a limited number of sites and you cannot search by a partial APN.

[Tutorial for how to search EnviroStor](#)

Q: Does the EnviroStor database contain information on the location of public drinking water wells?

A: No, DTSC does not maintain information on public drinking water wells. For information regarding well data, please contact the State Water Resources Control Board:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.shtml).

Q: Does the EnviroStor database include information regarding disposing of batteries, tires, waste oil, and recycling of scrap metal?

A: No, the EnviroStor database does not include information regarding disposal of household hazardous waste, such as batteries and waste oil. For more information, you can access DTSC’s general information on Universal Waste at:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/index.cfm>, or contact the California Integrated Waste Management Board at: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/>.

Q: How often is information in the EnviroStor database updated?

A: DTC is continuously updating data and uploading documents in EnviroStor. Downloadable files are updated nightly.

Q: What is the Cortese List?

A: The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning resource used by the State, local agencies, and developers to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. Government Code section 65962.5

requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to develop, at least annually, an updated Cortese List. DTSC is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List. Other State and local government agencies are required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List. For more information on the Cortese list, please refer to the [California Environmental Protection Agency's Cortese webpages](#).

Q: Is the Cortese List included in EnviroStor?

A: EnviroStor provides one component of the Cortese List data by identifying State Response and National Priorities List (NPL) (Federal Superfund), and Backlog sites listed under Health and Safety Code section 25356. Please note that this report also includes Certified with Operation and Maintenance sites. This can be found under the "Mandated Reports" in the "Reports" section or at: http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm

NOTE: The EnviroStor Cortese List report does not include information on DTSC's hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code. Please refer to the [California Environmental Protection Agency's Cortese webpages](#) for more information.

Q: What is the list of Land Use Restrictions?

A: The Land Use Restrictions report provides a list of properties where DTSC has placed limits or requirements on future use of the property due to varying levels of cleanup possible, practical, or necessary at the site/facility. The list includes land use restrictions that are active. It is possible for sites to have multiple land use restrictions. Not all land use restrictions are available online at this time. DTSC will continue to update its list as documents become available. You can access the Land Use Restrictions report at: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/deed_restrictions.asp

Q: How can I export or download files from EnviroStor, and what information do they include?

A: You can export or download EnviroStor search results and reports as an MS Excel © spreadsheet by using the "Export to Excel" feature. EnviroStor also provides downloadable files that include all information contained on the profile report such as site name, location, status, site type, planned and completed activities, site management requirements, ID codes, regulatory agencies, etc. To access the downloadable files, click on the "Download Data" option on the left of the Home page of the website.

[Tutorial on reports available in EnviroStor](#)

Q: What should I do if I think there is inaccurate information about a site/facility?

A: If you believe there is inaccurate information about a site, please contact the EnviroStor Help Desk (email: envirostor@dtsc.ca.gov, phone: 1-877-7TOXICS (1-877-786-9427)), or you may contact the Project Manager directly, if one is assigned to the site.

[Tutorial on how to finding contact information in EnviroStor](#)

Q: How do I obtain more information about a site/facility?

A: To obtain additional information about a site/facility, please contact the Project Manager/Most Recent inspector listed or contact the regional file room for an appointment to view the project file. If there is no Project Manager/Inspector listed, please contact the Supervisor or Division/Branch Chief listed for the site.

[Tutorial on how to finding contact information in EnviroStor](#)

Q: What is a Brownfield, and how can I search for Brownfield sites?

A: Brownfields are properties that are contaminated, or thought to be contaminated, and are underutilized due to perceived remediation costs and liability concerns. DTSC has integrated existing programs and developed a number of new tools to facilitate reuse of brownfields properties. All of the categories of sites where DTSC is involved with site investigation or cleanup include properties that fit the broad federal definition of brownfields. Because of the broad nature of the brownfields definition, DTSC has not developed a specific list of brownfield sites. In general, the category "Voluntary Cleanup Sites" may contain more sites that are eligible for various brownfield programs and services. Historically, DTSC did not include information regarding redevelopment and reuse plans for properties in its site database; in the future, DTSC will include this information, when available. You can access additional information about DTSC's various brownfields programs and services at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields/index.cfm>

Q: I received a report from a disclosure source, but a site listed in the report is not in the EnviroStor database.

A: Many companies export data from the EnviroStor database and combine data from multiple sources into a common report. DTSC is not responsible for misrepresentation of data that is obtained from the EnviroStor database. If a site is listed on a disclosure source report, but is not listed in the EnviroStor database, please contact the company that generated the report.

Q: I have a question that is not on the FAQ. How do I get help?

A: Additional guidance document are available on the [How to Use EnviroStor](#) tab.

Please refer to the [Glossary of Terms](#) for definitions of terms found in EnviroStor. If you have any questions regarding EnviroStor, please contact the EnviroStor Help Desk: email: envirostor@dtsc.ca.gov, phone: 1-877-7TOXICS (1-877-786-9427).