

Laboratory Hazardous Waste Guidance

Good practices for handling hazardous chemical waste in the laboratories

Maintenance

- Ensure that containers of stock chemicals are in good condition, labels are intact, and free from dust and residues. If there is no plan to use stock chemicals, then they should be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- Check all areas in the lab, including shelves, under sinks and in locked cabinets, to make sure that there are no old chemicals or chemical waste materials. The EPA considers chemicals that are outdated, unused for a lengthy time, or in degrading containers to be hazardous waste.
- Note that when a PI moves out of a lab space, he or she is responsible for disposal of all chemicals. Otherwise, the department may be responsible for any costs related to identification and disposal of chemicals.

Labeling

- Use the UB hazardous waste label. Follow the directions on the back of the label. Use full chemical names – no formulas or abbreviations.
- Add a label just prior to placing the very first drop of waste into the container.
- Make sure as much of the label is filled out as possible. The start date should be the date that the first drop of waste is added to the container.
- See the EH&S web site (www.ehs.buffalo.edu) for additional information on how to fill out the waste label or contact EH&S on the Service Request Line at 829-2401.

Storage

- Waste chemicals should be accumulated close (within line of sight) to the place the experiment is conducted.
- Waste chemicals should not be stored in departmental-common rooms, interstitial spaces, mechanical rooms, cold rooms, etc. Generators must maintain control of chemical waste until it is picked up by EH&S.
- Waste containers should be stored in chemically resistant trays or tubs (secondary containers) so that any leaks will be contained.
- Segregate incompatible waste by using separate secondary containers for each compatibility group.

Disposal

- Once a container is full, fax the completed “Request for Disposal” form to EH&S at 645-6100. Waste must be picked up within 3 days.
- Drain disposal of hazardous chemical wastes is prohibited for a number of reasons. For further information see “Guidelines for Drain Disposal of Laboratory Waste” on the EH&S website or in your *Hazardous Chemical Waste Management Guidebook*. Check your instruments and experiments and ensure that no chemicals are being discharged to the sanitary sewer drains.
- Evaporation of chemicals is not an accepted method of waste disposal! Check the *Guidebook*, and manufacturer’s instructions for disposal information.
- Contact EH&S for help in determining proper disposal methods.