



University of Pittsburgh

Department of Environmental Health and Safety

Guidelines for Flammable Liquid Disposal

Waste from chemicals possessing a flashpoint less than 60 ° C (140 ° F) are classified as hazardous wastes. According to federal law (40 CFR 261.20) and state and local regulations, all hazardous wastes must be captured, collected, and disposed through the University's Chemical Waste Disposal Program. **No flammable materials should be poured down the drain.** The University of Pittsburgh is committed to protecting the environment through compliance with these laws and the "Zero Discharge" initiative.

Disposal Guidelines

- Disposal of materials into the sanitary sewer is regulated by federal, state and local law.
- Chemical wastes possessing a flashpoint of less than 60 ° C (140 ° F) is classified as ignitable hazardous waste. *Please contact EH&S to make a hazardous waste determination of any materials in question.*
- All hazardous wastes must be captured, collected, and disposed through the University's Chemical Waste Disposal Program managed by EH&S.
- Flammable liquids that must be collected include ethanol, methanol, acetonitrile, and aqueous solutions of these solvents. For example, EHS has determined that Western blot transfer buffer containing 10% or 20% methanol is a hazardous waste due to the solution's flammability; and it must be collected and disposed through the Chemical Waste Disposal Program.
- Collect flammable liquid waste solutions in the original container, or in a suitable glass, plastic, or metal container.
- Label the container with an orange Chemical Waste label, and identify the chemical constituents. 'Waste' or 'solvent waste' are insufficient labels.
- All chemical containers, including those for collecting excess and/or waste must be kept closed.
- Once full, date the container, and place it in the designated accumulation area or contact EH&S (4-8952) to schedule a pick up.

Contact Environmental Health & Safety with any questions regarding chemical waste disposal at 412-624-8952 or 412-624-9505.