

<b>University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual</b>	EH&S Guideline Number: <b>04-018</b>	
Subject: <b>CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL GUIDELINES</b>	Effective Date: 04/20/2017 Review Date: 12/08/2023	Page 1 of 2

## CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDELINES

#### GENERAL

Waste chemicals are picked up from University buildings on a biweekly schedule. The schedule of pick-ups is every second Friday, starting at 8:00 A.M. and proceeding until completion. In the event of a University holiday falling upon a pick-up day, the pick-up will be rescheduled. Notice of rescheduling will be posted on-line ([www.ehs.pitt.edu](http://www.ehs.pitt.edu)) and at the pick-up point.

**Waste should be taken to the collection points on the morning of the scheduled pickup.** If your building does not have a standard collection point, pick-up arrangements can be made by contacting the Department of Environmental Health & Safety (412-624-9505).

#### LABELING CHEMICALS FOR DISPOSAL

- All chemicals must be identified and labeled.
- An orange “WASTE CHEMICALS” label should be filled out completely and affixed to the container when waste is initially added. The label should include chemical name, quantity, the major hazard of the material, name of person preparing chemical for disposal, department, telephone extension, and the start date when waste was first added to the container.
- Common chemical names should be used on labels. (**No formulas or abbreviations**)
- List all known chemical constituents for each container (**Do not** label as “solvent waste”, “aqueous waste”, halogenated/non halogenated waste, etc.). Estimate concentrations.
- Labels are obtained from EH&S.

#### PREPARATION OF CHEMICALS FOR DISPOSAL

- Waste chemicals destined for disposal should be segregated into compatible groups and packaged in a sturdy cardboard box.
- Consult the Safety Data Sheet for the materials to determine compatible groupings.
- Five-gallon solvent containers in good condition do not need to be overpacked.
- Drums greater than five-gallon capacity will not be picked up on regularly scheduled rounds. Arrangements for pick-up of drums can be made by contacting EH&S.
- Packaging should be done to minimize the possibility of breakage or leakage during handling (all bottles should be tightly capped to prevent leakage).
- Containers should be placed upright in the box to prevent spilling of the contents.

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- Bottles should not come in contact with each other, and the space between bottles should be filled with a cushioning material to prevent bottle movement during handling.
- Bottles of liquid chemicals should be packed with absorbent materials to contain the material in the event of breakage.
- **Do not** place any chemical waste in biological waste containers (red bags, boxes labeled with biohazard symbol, etc.).
- Total weight of the box should not exceed 30 pounds.
- Wastes should be removed from the laboratory on a routine basis, and should not be accumulated in the laboratory for greater than six months.