

# CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) is responsible for the collection of hazardous chemical waste for the University, including all campuses and off-site locations. Hazardous chemical waste is defined as any liquid, gaseous, or solid chemical that is ignitable, corrosive, reactive, toxic, or persistent, and is no longer useful or wanted. All hazardous chemical waste must be managed according to the guidance outlined in the [UW Laboratory Safety Manual](#).

## APPROPRIATE CONTAINERS

- Use a container compatible with the waste.
- Do *not* place chemicals in household product containers, such as food containers.
- Containers designed for solid chemicals should *not* be used for liquids.
- Do *not* use containers that previously contained a chemical that is [incompatible](#) with the chemical waste.
- Only use containers that show no sign of damage or deterioration.
- Use containers with screw top, well-fitted closures. *Waste containers must remain closed*, except when you are adding waste.

You may use spring-loaded funnels for adding waste to containers.

You may reuse containers for compatible chemicals if they are “empty”, as defined by hazardous waste regulations, and the original labels have been crossed out or removed.



The [Empty Chemical Containers Focus Sheet](#) provides guidance on reuse of chemical containers in accordance with hazardous waste regulations.

Do *not* use biohazardous-labeled containers or bags for packaging of hazardous chemical waste.

Syringes without needles, vials, or small items containing chemicals should be placed in secondary containment with a [UW Hazardous Waste Label](#) for collection.

## CONTAINER LABELS

Label all hazardous chemical waste with a UW Hazardous Waste label *unless the material is still in its original manufacturer's container*. As soon as waste is generated and dispensed into a container, label it with a [UW Hazardous Waste Label](#). Fill out the label completely, including percentages of constituents, the hazards of the waste, and contact name. Refer to [How to Label Chemical Waste Containers Instructions](#) for more details.

If you do not know the hazards of your chemical, use the SDS of the chemical to determine what they are.

Do *not* date the container or label.

Deface or remove any original labels remaining on the container to avoid confusion about the identity of the waste. Additional label templates can be found on the [Chemical Waste Disposal webpage](#).

## CONTAINER MAINTENANCE

- Do *not* store chemical waste for more than one year.
- Do not fill containers more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full to allow for pressure changes due to changes in temperature.
- Containers and/or caps that are deteriorated, contaminated, brittle, or broken should *not* be used for chemical waste.

## CONTAINER MAINTENANCE (cont.)

- If the waste container is damaged or deteriorates in condition, waste must be transferred to a new container or the broken container can be placed inside a new, closed container labeled with a [UW Hazardous Waste Label](#) that matches the label on the container inside (refer to [Empty Chemical Containers Focus Sheet](#) for guidance on disposal of empty chemical waste containers.)
- Do *not* allow chemical residue to accumulate on the outside of the waste container. The exterior of the container must be clean for handling without the need for protective gloves. Clean up any spills in a prompt manner.

Additional guidance on best practices for maintenance of hazardous waste can be found on the [Hazardous Waste Checklist](#) designed for Washington state hazardous waste inspection preparation.

## STORAGE LOCATIONS

- All waste must be stored at the point of generation. Do not generate your waste in one room and transfer to another room. In a large, shared space it is acceptable to have one location for waste storage.
- Segregate regulated chemical waste by chemical compatibility (refer to the segregation guidelines in Section 2 of the [Lab Safety Manual](#).)
- Place waste in a seismically safe area (e.g., not on a windowsill.) Store containers inside a closable cabinet or on a shelf that is anchored and has a lip to prevent containers from sliding off.
- If waste containers need to be stored on the floor, place them in secondary containment for spill control.
- Waste chemicals may be stored with unused chemicals as long as the containers are properly labeled and laboratory personnel know the storage location.
- Do *not* accumulate large amounts of waste in the fume hood. Store volatile toxics and odoriferous chemicals in a ventilated cabinet, if possible.

- Do *not* stack containers on top of each other unless they are empty.
- Always store corrosive waste below eye level.
- Do *not* block exits, safety showers, emergency equipment or emergency electrical access panels with chemical waste.
- Do *not* store the waste under, above, near or in sinks.

Do *not* accumulate more than 200 liters (55 gallons) of chemical waste per waste stream or one liter (one quart) of extremely hazardous waste per waste stream. Refer to the [Hazardous Waste Checklist](#) for more details on accumulation rules.

## SUBMITTING COLLECTION REQUESTS

[Batteries](#), rechargeable or not, generated on UW sites are also collected as chemical waste. For batteries that are damaged, defective or under recall, please contact EH&S for guidance on disposal.

There is no charge for hazardous chemical waste collection, except for unknowns and unstable peroxide forming chemicals.

[Request collection of your waste](#) ahead of time to avoid overfilling your containers.

To request a chemical waste collection, submit your request one of two ways:

1. Use the [Online Chemical Waste Collection Request form](#); **or**
2. Submit a request in [MyChem](#).

If you generate waste on a regular basis, consider setting up a chemical waste routine.

EH&S is not able to specify the time and date of collection of waste from your space, so it is important to list contact and access information in the notes section on collection requests in case the location is closed when they arrive.

Be sure to define the exact location of the waste containers ready for pickup on your collection request.

Visit the [Chemical Waste Disposal webpage](#) for additional information.

**Contact EH&S at (206) 616-5835 or [chmwaste@uw.edu](mailto:chmwaste@uw.edu) for more information.**