Laboratory Chemical Waste Guidelines

**Hazard Awareness**

- **Corrosive (Acids and Bases):** Materials that corrode skin or metal. Examples: Hydrochloric Acid, Sodium Hydroxide
- **Flammable (and Combustible):** Materials that readily ignite and burn vigorously. Examples: Alcohols, Acetone,
- **Oxidizer (and Organic Peroxides):** Materials that release oxygen readily to stimulate the combustion of organic matter. Examples: Concentrated Hydrogen Peroxide, Potassium Permananate, Bleach, Nitric Acid
- **Air or Water Reactive (and Pyrophoric):** Materials that react violently with air or water. Examples: Zinc Dust, Magnesium Metal, Sodium & Potassium Metal
- **Toxic (Poisons, Carcinogens, Mutagens):** Materials that contain a known carcinogen or known mutagen; exhibit oral toxicity; contain toxic metals or pesticides; or are toxic to aquatic species. Examples: Mercury, Ethyl Acetate, Formaldehyde, Ethidium Bromide

For regulatory reasons, chemical wastes that are not clearly in one of the above categories, and are not listed on the nonhazardous waste list should be considered toxic

**Handling Laboratory Wastes**

Any container used to store hazardous waste must be labeled with the words “Hazardous Waste” (regardless of its location) as soon as accumulation begins.

**All Laboratory Waste Containers Must Be:**
- In good condition with no leaks or cracks
- Kept closed except when adding waste
- Segregated from other incompatible wastes
- Stored in clean and compatible secondary containment
- Affixed with a fully completed hazardous waste label

Acceptable containers for common classes of chemicals are as follows:

a. **Solvents:** Original 4 liter glass solvent bottles, one gallon metal cans, and any original solvent container.

b. **Strong acids/Bases:** Original 2 liter glass bottles for corrosive liquids, any original container for the waste chemical being generated and equivalent approved plastic container.

c. **Miscellaneous Organic/Inorganic Reagents:** Original containers or equivalent.

d. **All Chemical Containers:**
   - Must have tight sealing caps
   - Must not leak
   - No more than approximately 90% full

**Improper Disposal**

Do not use the sinks or rubbish cans as methods for hazardous waste disposal as this is illegal under federal, state and local laws.

Laboratories and departments do not incur any costs for routine hazardous waste disposal directly.

However, there are costs to everyone’s health, safety and the environment if wastes are improperly disposed of.

**Designated Satellite Accumulation Area**

An appropriate designated “Satellite Accumulation Area” must be established to accumulate or store all hazardous waste. This area can be established on a bench top, fume hood, shelving unit or cabinet.

If the material is flammable or combustible, this waste should be stored in a flammable storage cabinet. It is recommended that hazardous waste should not be stored on the floor.

**Contact EH&S for more information**