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# The Waste-Paper

*The Hazardous Waste Disposal Monthly Update*

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## Discarding or Surplusing Equipment

Most equipment, including specialized laboratory equipment, must be turned over to [Central Surplus](#) when no longer useful to the department, lab or group. The Surplus Program updates University capital asset records and allows the items to be redistributed to other departments, sold, donated, or scrapped. Purchasing manages this program to ensure that federal acquisition, funding and disposal regulations are met.

Before submitting to Central Surplus, persons discarding equipment containing potentially hazardous materials must contact EHS to ensure that the hazardous materials are removed and disposed of in accordance with state and federal regulations. Examples of such materials include:

- PCBs (capacitors, transformers, oils, etc.)
- Asbestos (electrical or thermal insulation, transite board)
- Freons from refrigeration units (must be recycled)
- Mercury (switches, manometers, thermometers, etc.)
- Free liquids (e.g., oils, flammable or combustible liquids)
- Compressed gases of any kind
- Heavy metals (e.g., arsenic, chromium deposition, etc.)
- Lead (e.g., shielding in counting/survey instrumentation)
- Radioactive sources (e.g., internal calibration or check sources, scintillation counters, meters, detectors, etc.)
- Mercury lamps and bulbs
- Lasers (must be permanently disabled before ultimate disposal)
- Batteries (lead-acid, nickel-cadmium, mercury, etc.)
- Biohazardous materials

For equipment purchased on Sponsored Research grants, ORPA must submit a final property report to the sponsor and must confirm that the University holds title to the materials before they may be entered into Central Surplus or disposed.

For more information about the Central Surplus Program, visit their website at <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/TreasurersOffice/Purchasing/SCE/> or contact Sam Formica at [samf@princeton.edu](mailto:samf@princeton.edu) or

258-2347. For screening of equipment, contact Steve Elwood at [selwood@princeton.edu](mailto:selwood@princeton.edu) or 258-6271.

## Did you know...

Liquid wastes that are contaminated by more than trace amounts of bromine are considered poison inhalation hazards, or PIHs. Hazardous wastes that fall into the PIH category are designated as Zone A or Zone B, depending on the severity of the hazard. The University's waste contractor considers any percentage of bromine greater than "trace" (i.e., 0-1%) amounts as PIH Zone A material. In the regulatory world of hazardous materials transportation the material would be called "Bromine Solutions."

PIH Zone A materials require additional specialized packaging when transported via highway. The final packaged material can get quite "bulky" and as such it can also be quite expensive. It's therefore extremely important that lab personnel not over estimate the percentage of bromine in the solution.

If solutions containing larger percentages of bromine are generated, we ask that the collection be minimized to 1 quart containers. Special packages, called DOT exemption packs, are available to ship quart-size containers of PIH Zone A materials. This approach keeps costs low by minimizing bulky over packs. Translated this means we'd rather receive four, 1 qt. containers rather than a one gallon container.

If you have questions about characterizing your waste solutions contact Steve Elwood at [selwood@princeton.edu](mailto:selwood@princeton.edu) or by telephone at 8-6271.



## EHS Provides A New Customer Service

EHS has been made aware that few key people (particularly in E-Quad) have graciously taken it upon themselves to send out an e-mail reminding lab members to bring down their waste to their respective collection points. We think this is a terrific idea and would like to expand on it by sending an e-mail to as many individuals dealing with hazardous waste as possible. Therefore, beginning this May, we will send out an e-mail to everyone on the Waste Paper electronic distribution list reminding them of the following day's Waste Pickup. We will also provide the link for the waste collection protocol. If you are not a member of this list but would like receive the monthly email reminder contact Marcia Leach at [marcians@princeton.edu](mailto:marcians@princeton.edu) or by calling her at extension 8-5296. Also, a big EHS thank you to those of you who always take that extra step.

## *Save A Tree*

Please help EHS cut back on the amount of paper we use in distributing the Waste-Paper Newsletter. The Waste-Paper can be viewed on our Waste Paper [website](#) or ask to be put on the electronic distribution list by contacting Marcia Leach at [marcians@princeton.edu](mailto:marcians@princeton.edu)

<b><i>EHS HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTACTS</i></b>	
Main Office	8-5294
Steve Elwood (Chemical & Radioactive Waste)	8-6271
Marcia Leach (Waste-Paper)	8-5296
Don Robasser (Biohazardous Waste)	8-6256
EHS Web Page <a href="http://www.princeton.edu/ehs">http://www.princeton.edu/ehs</a>	