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# The Waste-Paper

*The Hazardous Waste Disposal Monthly Update*

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## ***Disposing of Powdered Chemicals And other ways to make the janitorial staff happy***

Imagine... You are emptying the trash in a laboratory while fantasizing about being on that podium, hearing your national anthem and glancing down at the gold medal when – poof – a cloud of dust flies into your face. Once your coughing or sneezing has subsided, you begin to wonder what that powder might be. Is it dangerous? Will it harm my skin? ... You have just stepped into the shoes of a typical janitor working in Princeton's laboratories.

Unless they are considered hazardous waste, many powdered chemicals can be disposed safely as regular laboratory trash. However, you should be considerate of the fact that loose powders may be released during trash removal.

To prevent this from happening, please dispose of non-hazardous powders in the following manner:

- If your lab generates medical waste, place them in the medical waste box.
- Powdered chemicals in sealed containers may be placed directly into the regular trash.
- Place loose powders in a bag or box or wrap them well in paper or plastic before disposing in the trash OR close the trash bag after adding the powder.

### ***Odorous Chemicals***

Non-hazardous laboratory wastes that have a strong odor, such as treated agars, may also be of concern to a janitor. Janitors in science and engineering buildings are instructed not to remove questionable materials.

Before placing odorous chemicals in the regular laboratory trash:

- Consider placing the odorous material in a sealed bag or wrapping it in a way that reduces the odor.

<b>EHS HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTACTS</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>	

- If your lab generates medical waste, place the odorous material in the medical waste box. Since the janitors only handle *sealed* medical waste boxes, odorous materials pose less of a concern when disposed in this manner.

### ***As a reminder***

- NEVER ASK A JANITOR TO CLEAN A CHEMICAL SPILL, except water. Janitors are prohibited from cleaning up chemical spills.
- If you do not clean up a chemical spill immediately, leave a note or sign warning others that the spill is there. Signs are available in the gray pails of the spill kits provided by EHS, which are usually located near the elevators on the 100 level.
- When a janitor or maintenance staff must conduct work in your lab, such as changing a light bulb, move sensitive or hazardous materials out of their way.
- Do not place more than 50 pounds of trash in any single receptacle, including medical waste boxes.
- NEVER ASK A JANITOR TO DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE. They are not permitted to handle such materials.
- If a medical waste box or laboratory trash is leaking, please repackage the material as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about disposing of non-hazardous waste, please contact Steve Elwood at 8-6271 or [selwood@princeton.edu](mailto:selwood@princeton.edu).

## ***This Month's Waste Disposal Drop-Off: Wednesday, August 26, 2004***

### **Lewis Thomas loading dock**

- collection room open from 12:00 - 4:30 pm and Thursday 8:00 to 9:00 am
- Coordinators: [Michael Fredericks](#) (x8-1351) or [Mary Zikos](#) (x8-4095)

### **Jadwin Hall room 124 (Physics only)**

- Do not drop off waste before Wednesday
- Coordinator: [Joe Horvath](#) (x8-4364)

### **E-Quad room 7 (E-Quad and Bowen)**

- collection room open from 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- Coordinators: [Joe Laskow](#) (8-4739) and [Joe Palmer](#)

### **Frick loading dock (Chemistry, Psychology, Art)**

- collection room open from 1:00 - 2:00 PM
- Coordinator: [Kevin Wilkes](#) (x8-3920)