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# The Waste-Paper

*“A Waste is a terrible thing to mind”*

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## *Chemical Waste Audit Scheduled for October*

The University is in the process of hiring a consultant to conduct a multi-media audit of our environmental compliance activities, similar to the audit conducted by the EPA in June and December 2001. As part of the process, the consultants will visit areas where chemicals and hazardous waste are used and stored, including at least 20% of the laboratories, selected by the consultants at random. The following guidelines should help to ensure that your practices comply with the state and federal regulations.

EHS will conduct its routine chemical waste inspections in August and September. Principal Investigators and area supervisors will receive e-mail with the findings and, as always, are expected to follow up on any problems noted.

### **Chemical Storage**

- All chemical containers must bear a label identifying the material(s).
- Spill control materials should be available in areas where chemicals and hazardous wastes are used or stored.

### **Packaging and Labeling Hazardous Waste**

- **The container must be in good condition.** Containers must not be leaking, bulging, rusting, damaged or dented. Where such containers must be used, they must have secondary containment – either placed in another container or stored on a tray or basin that is capable of holding all of the contents in the event of a leak.
- **Every container must be labeled “Hazardous Waste”** either with a yellow waste sticker available from EHS or written directly on the label or container. Non-specific labeling, such as “organic waste” is unacceptable.
- **Every container must have the chemical constituents clearly written on the label.** Trade names, chemical symbols and chemical structures are unacceptable.
- **Containers of hazardous waste must remain sealed except when filling.** The container must have adequate closure to withstand tipping over. Do not leave funnels in the containers

### **Hazardous Waste Storage**

- Incompatible wastes must not be stored together.
- Waste containers stored near drains, including sinks, floor drains and cup sinks, must have secondary containment.
- The waste storage area must be near the point of generation and controlled by the person generating the waste.

- No more than 55 gallons of hazardous waste or 1 quart of acutely hazardous waste may be stored in the laboratory or work area at any time. A list of acutely hazardous waste is available at [http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/spec\\_list.htm](http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/spec_list.htm)
- Quantities of flammable or combustible liquids in excess of 10 gallons must be stored in flammable liquid cabinets.
- Containers must be stored such that the labels are clearly visible.

### **Things to Do to Prepare**

- Check all areas where chemicals and hazardous wastes are used or stored to ensure compliance.
- Look at how you use and dispose of your chemicals to **be sure that hazardous wastes are not being poured down the drain, released to the air, or placed in regular trash.** The EHS web page, the Laboratory Safety Manual and the Laboratory Safety Training Guide all define what is a hazardous waste.
- Go through all of your chemicals and determine whether or not they truly have a foreseeable use. Promptly dispose of any that do not.
- Ensure that everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency.
- Ensure that all staff and students handling hazardous waste have attended Laboratory Safety or Hazard Communication training. EHS keeps attendance records for this training.

### **Conduct During the Inspection**

It is very likely that if inspectors visit your work area, they will ask several questions about how you use and dispose of chemicals. To ensure the best outcome, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Don't offer information unless specifically asked.
- Don't argue with the inspectors
- Don't be pushed into giving an answer if you don't know. It is better just to say that you do not know.
- Don't be evasive. Answer the question as directly and succinctly as possible, if you know the answer.
- Don't lie to the inspectors or misrepresent what really happens in your area.
- Don't engage in speculation.
- If an inspector notes a problem in your area, correct it immediately, if possible, or outline plans for fixing the problem.

### **Questions or Concerns**

Contact Steve Elwood or Robin Izzo if you have any questions or if you would like to arrange for a briefing for your lab or work area:

Steve Elwood, [selwood@princeton.edu](mailto:selwood@princeton.edu), x8-6271  
Robin Izzo, [rmizzo@princeton.edu](mailto:rmizzo@princeton.edu), x8-6259



### **CALLING ALL GAS CYLINDERS!**

EHS is organizing a gas cylinder disposal effort in the coming weeks. Any laboratories with unwanted or unusable compressed gas cylinders should contact Steve Elwood at 8-6271 or by e-mail at [selwood@princeton.edu](mailto:selwood@princeton.edu).

#### ***Remember...***

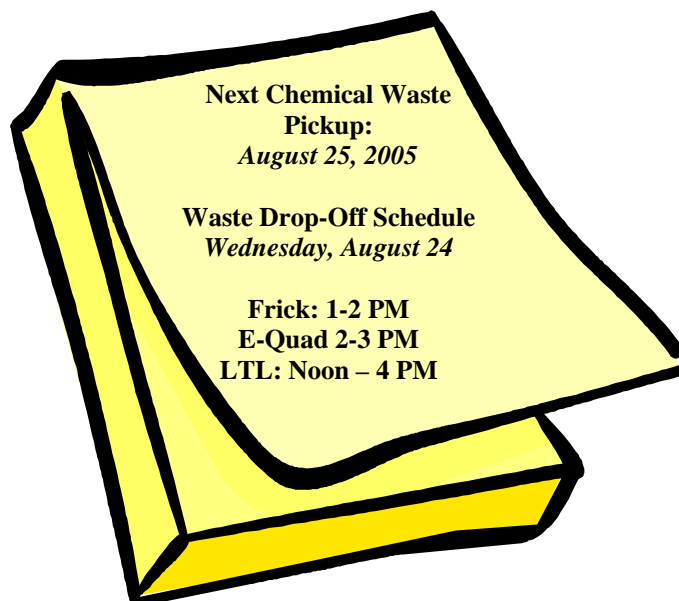
If you have unneeded gas cylinders, first call the manufacturer or distributor and ask that they pick up the cylinder for return. If they will not take the cylinder back, please call EHS at 258-5294 for assistance. Should EHS need to dispose of the cylinder via hazardous waste contractors, there may be a modest charge to your department. Please use returnable or refillable cylinders as available.

Please contact Steve Elwood at 258-6271 or [selwood@princeton.edu](mailto:selwood@princeton.edu) for more information or to schedule an inspection of your area. Further information about disposal of compressed gases is available on the EHS web site at <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/lecturebottles.html>

#### ***EHS HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTACTS***

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>	

## **The Waste-Paper**



#### ***New Students and Staff***

Please remember that all graduate students, undergraduates, faculty and staff working in laboratories or other areas where hazardous chemicals are used or stored must attend Laboratory Safety or Hazard Communication Training. Please see the EHS Training Calendar at <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/Training/calendar.htm> for the schedule. For more information, contact Robin Izzo at 258-6259 or [rmizzo@princeton.edu](mailto:rmizzo@princeton.edu).