

# The Waste-Paper

The Hazardous Waste Disposal Monthly Update

Volume 9 Issue 9

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## Are You New Here?

If Eating Clubs and black squirrels have you scratching your head, chances are you're new to the Princeton Community. If so, there are a few things you should know about the hazardous waste program here at Princeton.

### What is Hazardous Waste?

Unwanted chemicals are considered hazardous waste if they are:

- Ignitable (flammable, oxidizer, etc.)
- Reactive
- $\text{pH} < 2$  or  $> 12.5$
- Contain certain metals or organics (see web page for more information and chemical lists <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs>)

### Packaging Chemical Wastes

Place chemical waste in sealed containers that are compatible with the chemical being stored (e.g. no hydrofluoric acid in glass). Fill containers completely, leaving headspace for expansion.

Keep containers closed except during actual transfers. Do not leave open funnels in hazardous waste accumulation containers.

Similar wastes may be mixed if they are compatible (e.g. many flammable liquids).

If you routinely generate significant quantities of compatible chemicals, bulking of waste in five-gallon carboys (**white** carboys for flammable solvent, **blue** carboys for non-solvent) is encouraged. Carboys are available at no cost at the E-Quad, Frick and LTL stockrooms and through EHS.

### Labeling of Chemical Waste Containers

Waste containers must be labeled with the words HAZARDOUS WASTE along with the names and approximate percentages of the principal chemical constituents, preferably using the hazardous waste labels (see graphic above) available at no cost through EHS (8-5294).

Use common chemical names, not symbols, structural diagrams or product trade names.

Labeling should be accurate and legible and must include the name of the responsible person or lab and an extension where someone who is knowledgeable

about that specific waste can be reached on the day of the pickup.

### Storing Chemical Wastes

Keep the labeled, sealed containers of waste in your laboratory until the scheduled waste pickup. You must keep the waste containers at or near the area where you generate the waste. You may not store wastes in a room other than the room where the waste is generated.

Separate incompatible wastes by storing in separate areas or using secondary containers. Use secondary containers for wastes stored near sinks or drains (including cup sinks). Upon request, EHS provides small polyethylene tubs for this purpose.

### Disposal Procedure

Chemical waste pickups are generally held on the last Thursday of each month. Bring your containerized waste to your building's designated collection area the day before that month's scheduled pick-up. **Keep in mind, the last Thursday can fall as early as the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the Month.**

There are four main waste pickup sites:

- *Frick loading dock (Chemistry, Psychology and Visual Arts):* Drop off wastes between 1:00 and 2:00pm on the day prior to the pickup or make arrangements with Kevin Wilkes (8-3920) in the Chemistry stockroom.
- *E-Quad and Bowen:* Bring wastes to Room 7 on the loading dock between 2:00 and 3:00pm the day prior to the pickup. For special arrangements, see Joe Laskow (8-4563) or Joe Palmer (8-4706).
- *LTL Loading Dock (Molecular Biology, Geosciences, LSI and EEB):* Bring wastes to room 033 between noon and 4:30pm on Wednesday and 8:00 – 9:00am on Thursday. For special arrangements, see Michael Fredericks (8-1351).
- *Jadwin Hall (Physics):* contact [Steve Elwood](#) (8-6271) for special arrangements.



**This Month's Waste pickup  
will be held**

**Thursday, September 27**

**(Bring waste Wednesday 9/26)**



HAZARDOUS WASTE		
Federal & New Jersey Laws Prohibit Improper Disposal		
Department _____	Phone _____	
Lab Group _____		
Responsible Individual _____		
Date Placed in 90 Day Storage _____		
Contents _____	Approximate % _____	
Use IUPAC _____		
Nomenclature _____		
Hazard Class (if known)		
1. Poison	4. Oxidizer	7. Sensitive to Shock, Friction, Air or Water
2. Flammable Liquid	5. Corrosive	
3. Flammable Solid	6. Peroxide Former	
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### Waste Disposal Costs

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) coordinates and pays for routine chemical waste disposal. Departments or laboratories may be expected to share costs for extraordinary services, such as characterization of unidentified chemicals, remediation of contaminated equipment, or large-scale chemical cleanouts that involve labor provided by our waste contractors.

### Special Problems

Unidentified or unlabeled chemical wastes cannot be legally transported or disposed. The responsibility for correctly identifying waste rests with the person generating the waste. Do not bring unidentified wastes to the pickup site. Contact EHS for guidance. The department or laboratory will be charged for any necessary testing required by the waste contractor.

### General Recommendations

Don't purchase more of a chemical than you expect to use in the foreseeable future.

Scale down experiments to a practical minimum to reduce the total amount of waste generated. Where possible, substitute with less hazardous materials

Dispose of your wastes at the completion of a project - don't abandon them for someone else to handle.

### Training

All faculty, staff, students, and visiting researchers who work in laboratories must attend Laboratory Safety training provided by EHS, regardless of previous training and experience elsewhere.

Any individual working with hazardous chemicals in workplaces on campus other than laboratories must attend Hazard Communication Training offered by EHS.

Both Laboratory Safety Training and Hazard Communication Training fulfills the hazardous waste training requirement.

See EHS web page or contact [Robin Izzo](#) for dates and location of this training.  
<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/Training/calendar.htm>

### For More Information

See the [EHS Chemical Waste Disposal](#) web pages for more information, including

- Ethidium bromide
- Batteries
- Computers and equipment
- Compressed gases

- Empty chemical containers
- Biological and medical wastes
- Sharps disposal
- Radioactive wastes
- Drain disposal policy
- List of non-hazardous wastes
- Lists of hazardous wastes
- Pollution prevention opportunities

For consultation or additional questions, contact EHS at 8-5294.

### Spill Kits

Do you know where the nearest spill kit is located? Each lab or work area should have access to sufficient quantities of absorbents or other types of materials to control a spill.

EHS provides general use spill kits in all laboratory buildings and most other buildings where chemicals are stored or used. The EHS spill kit includes all of the materials needed to clean up spills of most any material **except hydrofluoric acid and mercury**. Most are located near the elevator on the 100 level. After using the spill control materials in the EHS kits, please contact EHS at 258-5294 to request that the materials be replenished.



If you use hydrofluoric acid, be sure to have HF compatible spill control materials, such as PowerSorb, available. If you use mercury, consider replacing with non-mercury alternatives. Otherwise, keep a supply of mercury spill materials (HgX, Mercury-Absorb, etc.) on hand. Mercury sponges are not very effective. For more information on cleaning up mercury spills, please see <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/mercury.htm>.

For locations of spill kits in buildings please see, <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/emergency/CSKlocations.htm>

*The Waste-Paper is distributed to departmental contact persons in hard copy or e-mail approximately one week in advance. If you would like to be added to the distribution, contact Tonya Gruchacz at [gruchacz@princeton.edu](mailto:gruchacz@princeton.edu) or 8-6255.*

<b>EHS HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTACTS</b>	
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Tonya Gruchacz (Waste-Paper)	8-6255
Don Robasser (Biohazardous Waste)	8-6256
EHS Web Page	<a href="http://www.princeton.edu/ehs">http://www.princeton.edu/ehs</a>