
The Waste-Paper

“Waste is a terrible thing to mind”

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Recycling at Princeton University

From its humble beginnings in 1986 the University's recycling program has grown from recycling just fine paper to include all of following:

What we recycle

- Co-mingled paper
- Scrap metal
- Batteries
- Computers and electronics
- Concrete and asphalt from construction projects
- Anti-freeze / coolant
- Food and food waste
- Aluminum cans
- Cardboard
- Glass bottles
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Wooden pallets
- Leaves and tree stumps
- Paper
- Pipette tip containers
- Tires

Things to consider

- If there are items you would like the University to consider recycling, contact Al King of Building Services. Please do not place items NOT on the list in campus recycling containers.
- Aluminum foil and pizza boxes can only be recycled if they have not been soiled. Recycling facilities will not accept food contaminated aluminum foil or pizza boxes because of the rodent problem they often create.

A recycling program is only as good as its participants. PLEASE RECYCLE!!!

Alternative Waste Disposal

The University has a very extensive hazardous waste program, but did you know there are many kinds of waste that can safely be recycled or disposed via trash or the sanitary sewer. The following are some items that do not need to be handled as hazardous wastes.

Non-Hazardous Chemicals

Several laboratory chemicals are considered non-hazardous and may be disposed via sanitary sewer (liquids) or laboratory trash. A list of Non-Hazardous Chemical Wastes may be found on the EHS web page (<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/nonhaz.htm>). Please do not dispose of liquids or malodorous chemicals in the trash.

Battery Recycling

Building Services administers a program for recycling batteries including rechargeable (e.g., NiCd) and alkaline batteries. You may have noticed their receptacles at various collection locations on campus. More information is available on the EHS web page (<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/battery.htm>) or contact Building Services for more information. *Please note:* All rechargeable batteries must be recycled or disposed of as hazardous waste.

Used Oil

Used oil is considered a recyclable waste. The container label should indicate “Used Oil,” not “waste oil” or “hazardous waste”. The exceptions are oil that is contaminated with other hazardous constituents (e.g., solvent, heavy metals, etc.) Certain vacuum pump oils, some cutting oils, and PCB contaminated oil. All of the aforementioned exceptions are regulated hazardous wastes and must be labeled and disposed as hazardous waste (<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/oil.htm>).

Chemical/Solvent Containers (empty)

Empty chemical containers should not be disposed of as hazardous waste. The containers must be triple rinsed with water or other suitable solvent and air-dried before recycling. If the container once contained a material listed on the NJDEP List of Acutely Hazardous Waste (http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/spec_list.htm#plist), any rinseate must be collected and disposed as hazardous waste. Volatile organic solvents (e.g. acetone, ethanol, ethyl acetate, ethyl ether, hexane,

methanol, methylene chloride, petroleum ether, toluene, xylene, etc.) not on the list of acutely hazardous wastes, may be air-dried in a well ventilated area (e.g. chemical fume hood) without triple rinsing. Glass containers with no visible residue may be placed in University recycling receptacles, with the exception of acid bottles. If the glass container has visible residue and this residue is hazardous, the container should be disposed as medical waste. Any broken glass containers that are free of chemical residue should be placed in broken glass receptacles. Broken laboratory glassware is not recyclable. More information can be found at the EHS web page

(<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/mtcontainers.htm>)

Compressed Gas Cylinders

If you have unneeded lecture bottles, 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. See vendor list at <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/lecturebotles.html>

Sharps and other Medical Waste

Place all Pasteur and other glass pipettes, needles, syringes, scalpel blades, razor blades, slides, and cover slips in labeled sharps container and dispose of in medical waste boxes. More information is available at the EHS web page (<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/lecturebottles.html>).

Controlled Substances

DEA controlled substances may not be disposed in chemical/hazardous waste streams. Contact EHS for disposal options.

Waste Metals for Reclamation

Elemental mercury is the most common reclaimable metal found at Princeton. Mercury and mercury debris (e.g., broken thermometers, spill debris) is consolidated by EHS personnel and sent to for mercury reclamation. Place the mercury and/or debris in a sealed bag or container and label it "Mercury – containing debris." Contact EHS or bring it to the hazardous waste collection. Mercury compounds will continue to be handled as hazardous waste.

Lead is another metal that is a regulated hazardous waste if not sent for metals recycling. EHS facilitates recycling lead scrap (radiation shielding, lead solder, stained glass comes, etc.). Containers are available from EHS for accumulating lead scrap and should be labeled "Lead for Recycling."

For more information, contact Steve Elwood at 8-6271 or selwood@princeton.edu.

Reminder



November and December will have a combined pickup.

The December pickup will be Thursday, December 13, 2007

Waste Collection will take place on Wednesday, December 12, 2007

There will not be a pickup in November

Next Waste Pickup:
October 25, 2007

Bring waste to collection area on October 24, 2007

Frick Loading Dock: 1PM – 2 PM
E-Quad Room-7: 2 PM to 3 PM
LTL Loading Dock: 1pm to 4:30 PM