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# The Waste-Paper

“A Waste is a terrible thing to mind”

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## Waste Container Options

Hazardous waste must be collected in a sealed container that is compatible with the waste. However, this does not limit you to collecting in amber glass or plastic 4 liter bottles that are ubiquitous in waste collection areas. Keeping the rules of “compatible” and “sealed” in mind, many containers can be used to collect waste.

**Scenario #1 – Multiple small containers:** Your lab has generated 100+ vials of flammable solvent waste that are a few milliliters each. You should not be emptying each vial of hazardous waste out into a larger collection container. It creates unneeded additional handling and may result in spills. If the vials are not needed for reuse, simply dispose of the sealed vials into a glass or plastic bottle, jar, or sealable bag if they are not leaking.



**Scenario #2 – Cleaning out stock containers:** Your lab is cleaning out old stock chemicals and there are a few dozen containers of chemical “X”. Chemical X is corrosive, so it must be disposed as hazardous waste. Instead of filling out dozens of hazardous waste labels, it is easier to consolidate the waste into one larger container and label just that container. Place the sealed containers into a cardboard box (keep mind of its weight), close the flaps, and label the box with a hazardous waste label as “chemical X”.



**Scenario #3 – Large apparatus:** A large glass apparatus contaminated with toxic heavy metals has cracked and is beyond prospect of future use. It is unsealed, so will not suffice as its own container. To fit the apparatus into a regular container would require breaking the glass in several areas and risking injury, chemical exposure and a spill. Protect sharp edges of the apparatus with cardboard, then use a thick plastic garbage bag, or two, to create a container. Seal the bag with tape for closure and label with a hazardous waste sticker.

Waste should be removed to hazardous waste room the day before the hazardous waste pickup. Check the schedule for [location, dates and times](#).

Contact Jim Boehlert at 8-7882 for guidance and ideas for efficient waste management

## Training Reminder

University Policy states: “All individuals working in Princeton University laboratories, paid or unpaid, including faculty, staff, students and visitors, **must** attend [Laboratory Safety Training](#) provided by Environmental Health and Safety. Attendance at similar laboratory safety training provided by other institutions does not satisfy this requirement. **This includes post-docs, students, and visiting researchers.** Sign up for Laboratory Safety training on-line through

<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/Training/calendar.htm>

### *This Month's Waste Disposal Drop Off: Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

#### *Lewis Thomas loading dock*

- Collection room open from 1:00 - 4:30 PM
- Coordinators: [Michael Fredericks](#) (8-1351) or [Mary Zikos](#) (x8-4095)

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

- E-mail [selwood@princeton.edu](mailto:selwood@princeton.edu) with the chemicals, quantity, location, contact person.

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

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

#### *Frick loading dock (Chemistry, Psychology, Vis Arts)*



- Collection room open from 1:00 - 2:00 PM
- Coordinator: [Phil Fairall](#) (x8-3913)

### ***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>

## Separating Waste Streams

Labs can generate a wide variety of waste types that may or may not be disposed together. Incompatible waste streams that are combined can result in issues with disposal costs, illegal transportation and management, missed opportunities to recycle waste, and hazards to University employees. The following are examples of different waste streams and how to handle them.

WASTE CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	CONTAINER	HANDLING	ROUTING
Non-recyclable waste glass, plastics  Sharps from non-culture labs	Plate glass, pyrex, light bulbs, broken glass chemical containers, <b>Non-contaminated*</b> pipettes, needles, syringes, slides, blades, cover slips	Tall cardboard box with heavy plastic liner 	Removed by janitors when full	Solid waste (non-recyclable)
Empty chemical containers	Intact, triple-rinsed glass and plastic (#1 and #2) containers; recyclable <b>without caps</b>	Plastic bucket with half lid	Removed by janitors when full	Recyclable Waste
Lab trash	Gloves that are not grossly contaminated, bench paper, packaging materials, foil, plastic bags, paper towels, weighing boats, bottle caps, fly media, culture plates, culture and centrifuge tubes, filter flasks, silica gel (not contaminated with solvents)	Standard waste basket with plastic liner  Silica gel and other powders must be in sealed bag or container before placement in waste basket.	Removed daily by janitors	Solid waste (non-recyclable)
<b>Chemical Waste</b>				
Non-Hazardous Chemical Liquids	<a href="#">Chemicals on Non-Haz List</a> Buffer solutions, liquid media and broths, corrosive solutions neutralized to pH - 7	Any container	Drain disposal to sanitary sewer	Waste water
Non-Hazardous Chemical Solids	<a href="#">Chemicals on Non-Haz List</a> Enzymes, proteins, stains, buffer salts, dyes, media and broth solids, carbohydrates, long-chained fatty acids and polymers.	Loose powders contained in a sealable bag or container Standard waste can with liner	Removed by custodial staff when full	Solid waste
Hazardous Chemical Waste - Solids and Liquids	Gas cylinders, chemicals exhibiting flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic characteristics. Solvents, acids, bases, water & air-sensitive materials, heavy metals	Closed container that is compatible with the waste	Removed by lab staff per hazardous waste pickup schedule	Hazardous Waste
<b>Regulated Medical Waste</b>				
All Sharps	All Pasteur and other <b>glass</b> pipettes, needles, syringes, scalpel blades, razor blades, slides, coverslips	Labeled sharps containers 	Sealed and placed in medical waste box by lab staff	Medical waste
Other Medical Waste	Experimentally cultured stocks, plates or other disposables associated with culture work; ethidium bromide gels	Medical waste box with red plastic liner Or Labeled sharps container	Sealed, labeled and placed in corridor by lab staff. Collected by janitors.	Medical waste