Hazardous Chemical/Materials Pickup and Disposal

Requirements: Access to EHSA
PPE: Eye Protection, Gloves, Lab Coat
Attachments: N/A

- Access EHSA on this page here: https://www.purdue.edu/ehps/rem/waste/hazwaste.html
  Scroll down on the page to find the link

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1. General Guidelines

1.1. What follows here is a set of best practices for the disposal of unwanted chemicals, chemical waste, and other materials that are appropriate for submission on EHSA.

1.2. You will need to designate an area, typically a lab countertop, table, or hood surface, to place the items that will await disposal, after submitting your form to EHS.

1.3. As you start to list chemicals on the pickup request, place them in a line, front of countertop to the back, so that they are kept in the order you have listed on the form.

1.4. These practices greatly facilitate EHS in picking up chemicals in a timely manner. EHS generates their own label for each chemical they are slated to pick-up, based on the list of chemicals you submitted on the EHS. If they are placed, and remain, in order, it significantly saves them time.

2. Organizing and Preparing Chemicals/Materials for Pickup

2.1. Do keep in mind good segregation practices when placing chemicals next to one another.

2.2. All containers must be intact, with lid in place, and clearly labeled. If container is damaged, then secondary containment will be needed, such as a Ziploc bag or plastic container, though do keep in mind the potential reactivity of the chemical itself. If secondary containment is not really viable, then transfer to
acceptable container for disposal. Should you need larger plastic bags for this purpose, let John Bowman know and he can get you what you need.

2.3. EHS will not pick up any extraneous packaging, so whenever possible, remove all unnecessary packaging. **Caveat:** On occasion, the container inside of all the packaging will not be labeled itself, therefore, leave it in the packaging.
2.4. For the molecular labs, do not forget your kits. Many of the solutions within will also need to be submitted to EHS, as well. See form above for example.
2.5. Use the following sticker for hazardous waste containers, especially for mixtures. (Stickers can be requested from EHS, free of charge.)

![Hazardous Waste Disposal Tag](image)

2.6. The description on the container label must match the description written on the pickup request exactly.

2.7. When submitting trade products, read the description of the chemical components on the label, or request a SDS from the manufacturer. This information will provide you with a proper chemical description for the product. You are responsible for providing EHS with chemical descriptions or a SDS.

3. **Accessing the Pickup Request Form on EHSA**

3.1. Here is the website with the EHSA link: [Hazardous Waste Disposal - Environmental Health and Safety - Purdue University](http://ehsa.purdue.edu/hazardous-waste-disposal)

3.2. Follow the instructions on EHSA to create a profile if you have not already done so.
3.3. Select which type of waste you want removed by EHS. Chemical, biological, or radiological then fill in the necessary information.

3.4. You can save the pickup request and work on it later if you have more to add.

3.5. When you are ready to send in the request, hit “save” then “save and submit.”

3.6. You can log in to your EHSA profile to check on the status of your pickup request.

4. **Empty Chemical Containers**

4.1. Triple rinse empty containers with a solvent capable of removing the original material.

4.2. It may be necessary to collect the rinsate for disposal through EHS's hazardous materials program depending on original contents and the solvent used for rinsing.

4.3. Identify triple-rinsed, dry, odorless, and empty containers as "SAFE FOR DISPOSAL" with a label available from EHS (example to the right) or by defacing the original label.

4.4. Remove any cap that may cause the container to become pressurized when compacting.

4.5. Properly labeled container can then be placed in the hallway, by lab door, for disposal.

5. **Batteries**

5.1. *Alkaline Batteries* are not considered to be universal waste, therefore they *can go in the trash.*

5.2. All of the following batteries ARE considered to be universal waste and they need to be submitted on EHSA:

   i. Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cad)

ii. Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)
iii. Lithium ion
iv. Sealed Lead Acid
v. Mercury
vi. Any Rechargeable battery

6. Lightbulbs

6.1. **Incandescent** lamps are not classified as universal waste, so they can be discarded in the trash.
6.2. Fluorescent lamps are classified as universal waste and unbroken ones need to be placed into a round cardboard lamp disposal container, marked with the symbol below. In LILY, they are located at the dock and each of the foyers to the freight elevator, in the LILY 300 hallway.
6.3. Broken fluorescent lamps need to be placed into a box, taped closed, HMM sticker below applied to box, and then submitted on EHSA.

7. Gas cylinders

7.1. The university has a system for the more common gas cylinders, such as Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Carbon Dioxide, Oxygen, and Air. For any odd gas cylinders that do not fall into the purview of the above system, will need to be submitted on EHSA.

8. Glass Disposal

8.1. Do not dispose of any glass waste into our normal building trash stream. If the pieces of glass are small enough, dispose of in a ‘Sharps’ container.
8.2. The second option is to create (reuse a shipping box) or purchase a glass disposal box (Fisher cat. 12-009-7A)

8.3. Be sure to tape the bottom of the box, so small pieces of broken glass are unable to escape. Once the box is full, tape the top of the box well and label [GLASS] all 4 sides and the top. Place the box in the hallway, outside of your lab door. The custodial staff will remove it during their normal responsibilities.

9. **Sharps Containers**
9.1. Biological contaminated sharps should be first treated as biological waste, then submitted on bio hazard pickup request on EHSA.

9.2. Chemical contaminated sharps should be submitted as a chemical pickup request on EHSA.

9.3. Biological and chemical contaminated sharps should be treated first as a biological waste. Once the biological agents have been deactivated by either autoclave or chemical disinfection, the remaining chemical waste should be submitted as a chemical pickup request on EHSA.

10.1. **Radioisotopes**

10.1. Radioactive waste/materials should be submitted on EHSA as a “radiological” pickup request.

**11. Additional Hazardous Materials**

11.1. Lead, pesticides, aerosols that contain flammable/toxic components, oils, mercury containing equipment, switches, lamps, and thermometers, specimens stored in formalin/formaldehyde should all be submitted on EHSA.