

Tulane University's Chemical Waste Handling Procedures

(Revised 4/24/07)

For additional information, contact the Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS):

Web: <http://www.som.tulane.edu/oehs>

Email: Hazardous Waste Supervisor, bmclue@tulane.edu

Telephone: 504-988-2865 (or Main Office 504-988-5486)

Safety Practices

- Segregate incompatibles (e.g. acids and bases)
- Keep waste containers tightly capped at all times except when adding waste
- Use secondary containment when storing waste (helps to contain spills)
- Clean up spills when they occur or contact OEHS for advice/assistance
- Post an Emergency Response Plan in a clearly visible area near an exit
- Review emergency plans in the event of a hazardous material release
- Ensure all personnel understand safety and disposal procedures and have received appropriate training

Steps for Waste Removal:

- ✓ Containerize all waste in a sealed, compatible container
- ✓ Label all containers with words "Hazardous Waste," full name of chemical, and associated hazards (see sample label below)
- ✓ Maintain waste in the area until collected by OEHS (In some buildings, OEHS maintains waste room collection hours. Call OEHS for details.)
- ✓ Request collection via OEHS website request form or by emailing Hazardous Waste Supervisor.

SAMPLE HAZARDOUS WASTE LABEL (AVAILABLE FROM OEHS)

TULANE - HAZARDOUS WASTE

Name of Chemical

Check the appropriate item(s)

Flammable ___ Reactive ___ Toxic ___

Corrosive ___ Liquid ___ Solid ___

Gas ___

Generator Name: _____

Department: _____

Room #: _____

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER

- leave containers unlabeled
- allow more than 15 gallons of a flammable material to accumulate
- allow more than 1 quart of acute/poisonous material (e.g., osmium tetroxide) to accumulate
- dispose of hazardous waste/chemicals in sink or trash
- use evaporation as a treatment method

Waste Minimization

- ❖ Check current inventories before making new chemical purchases
- ❖ Audit chemical supplies regularly and use inventory control
- ❖ Substitute less hazardous materials when possible
- ❖ Reduce the scale of experiments when possible
- ❖ Purchase only the quantity of chemicals required for specific projects
- ❖ Avoid mixing hazardous waste with non-hazardous waste
- ❖ Maintain Standard Operating Procedures(SOPs) and train personnel to avoid excess waste generation

Large Chemical Spill

- Alert others in area to evacuate
- Obtain MSDS
- Turn off ignition sources
- Confine spill (upright container, close doors, pull down sash of hood)
- Notify supervisor, OEHS, and Tulane Police/Public Safety
- Attend to injured or contaminated persons
- Wait for OEHS to respond; provide support to OEHS personnel in uncontaminated area