



QUICK TIPS: Hazardous Waste Disposal Guide

Any chemical waste that is defined as a “**Hazardous Waste**” by the EPA or DOT, and/or has the characteristics of hazardous waste must be handled, stored, and disposed of in accordance with all applicable University, State, and Federal environmental requirements.

Hazardous Waste Characteristics

Ignitable/Flammable – A liquid with a flash point less than 140° F, an ignitable solid, an ignitable compressed gas, or an oxidizer.
Ex. Paint thinner (may contain methanol, acetone), lacquer (may contain acrylic acid), propane



Corrosive – pH less than or equal to 2 or pH greater than or equal to 12.5
Ex: Potassium hydroxide (found in boiler water treatment), ammonia, hydrogen chloride, sulfur dioxide (found in disinfectant, refrigerant)



Reactive – Unstable under normal conditions. Reacts violently with water or air. Potentially generates toxic gases.
Ex. Metal powders (finely divided), metal hydrides, peroxides



Toxic – Dangerous to human health, animals, or the environment. The waste stream contains any of the contaminants list in [40 CFR 261.24](#) at or above the indicated regulatory limit.
Ex. Lead, silver, methylene chloride (common in degreasers)



Disposal Guideline

- Containers must be in good condition and closed at all times unless actively adding waste.
- Store incompatible waste in separate containers and bins.
- Containers must be properly labeled with a corresponding NYU hazardous waste label. The labels must include the following.
 - Chemical name (**No abbreviation**) and quantities
 - Hazards associated with the chemical(s)
 - Contact information
- Empty containers of **P-coded material** must be handled as hazardous waste or triple rinsed. The rinsate must be collected as hazardous waste.

Reminders

- Submit a pick-up request when the container is 90% full.

Need supplies, labels, or a waste pick up?
Have other questions?
Visit the EHS website

