

SUNY Geneseo Procedure for Hazardous Waste Pickup

Hazardous waste management is ruled by increasingly stringent and complex regulations. Management of chemical and hazardous waste at SUNY Geneseo is accomplished by the generator of the waste with the assistance of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). Section 260.10 defines a “generator” as “any person, by site, whose act or process produces hazardous waste, identified or listed in part 261 or whose act first causes a hazardous waste to become subject to regulation.” EHS will assist generators on campus to assure that wastes are managed in accordance with the regulations. However, the generator is ultimately responsible for managing the waste safely.

Any waste material that may, upon contact or inhalation, present a hazard to one’s health or surrounding environment should be treated as a potentially hazardous waste. This includes spent or unused chemicals, cleaning solutions, oils, etc. If there is any doubt whether a material should be treated as hazardous, contact EHS at x5512. Never throw any questionable material in the sewer or trash without first consulting with EHS.

EHS will pick up properly documented and packaged wastes and will store them in the hazardous waste building prior to their final disposition. Waste is disposed of by contract and is picked up from the College usually four times per year (every 90 days). **The schedule for hazardous waste pick up by EHS will be twice per month on the first and third Wednesday of the month. A request for pick-up form must be completed prior to pick-up if there are excess chemicals i.e. end of semester clean out (see attached).**

Storing Waste Prior To Pickup

All waste shall be stored in a safe and secure area. Waste shall remain in such areas until picked up by EHS. Never leave waste in a hallway or other unsecured area where it may be subject to public contact. Waste should be properly segregated (see attached chart for incompatible wastes).

Generators are responsible for obtaining necessary storage containers. Containers shall be structurally sound, in good condition, and have a tight fitting cap. Stopper bottles and plastic milk or soda bottles are not acceptable. *Label each and every container!* A waste generator shall also ensure that a container is compatible with the material to be stored. Materials that may generate vapor, such as solvents and other low boiling point materials should be stored in a properly ventilated area. All waste containers should have at least 10 to 20 percent headspace left in them to avoid pressure buildup that may occur with expansion. An inventory of wastes shall be maintained. The condition of containers, secondary containment, labels, etc. should be checked weekly (see attached laboratory waste collection area inspection form). In case of an emergency, call UP at x5222.

Minimizing Waste

Waste minimization or prevention can be accomplished in many different ways. Generators are strongly encouraged to be alert for alternative procedures or products that will reduce or prevent waste generation.

Departments should be familiar with the nature of the waste they generate, including composition and quantity. In doing so, goals or benchmarks should be identified with efforts focused on reaching them. Please call EHS for help in determining and establishing goals and benchmarks.

Chemicals or other materials which have not been opened or are still in usable form can be saved from becoming waste by being offered for other College staff use. EHS will periodically distribute a list of “unwanted but still usable” materials. Staff wishing to obtain a material for use may contact EHS. EHS will pick up and deliver the material to the requester. Staff wishing to list materials should also contact EHS. Materials should continue to be stored by the listing Department until a user is found. If this is not possible, or if an appreciable amount of time has expired with no result, EHS can pick up the material and dispose of it.

Waste generated through scientific classroom instruction has additional reduction options available. These include converting to micro scale experiments and incorporating material or inactivation into experimental procedures. This promotes environmental and product stewardship and could be a valuable theme in course curriculum.

Radioactive Waste

Radioactive waste should be stored and labeled as other hazardous wastes. However, generators must ensure that adequate shielding of the storage area is provided to keep exposure as low as possible. Liquid and solid wastes should always be segregated and collected in separate containers. The same waste labels and request forms used for other hazardous waste should be used for radioactive waste. The container label must indicate the chemical composition of the contents and their percentages, isotopes used level of activity in microcuries, and associated hazards. This same information must also be provided on the pickup request form.

Among the hazards noted on the pickup request form should be an indication of any volatile material into which radioisotopes may be incorporated, i.e, may produce potential airborne exposures to radioisotopes.