

Hazardous Waste Generation and Collection at the University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota generates many types of waste through its activities. With over 50,000 students and over 19,000 employees' statewide, there is a great variety of different types of waste generated during education, research, and maintenance of the infrastructure.

The majority of the waste generated at the University is solid waste. This is the regular trash and recycling the University generates on a daily basis.

A subset of solid waste is hazardous waste. Hazardous waste is fully regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who sets restrictions on how the material is collected, properly marked and labeled, transported and finally disposed of. Hazardous Waste is regulated because the material in question has a hazardous characteristic.

- Flammable (D001)
- Corrosive (D002) (acidic or basic)
- Reactive (D003)
- Toxic
 - D- Codes (Toxic metals and solvents)
 - U- Codes (Discarded and off-specification products)
 - P- Codes (Acutely toxic)
 - K- Codes (Specific industrial processes)
- Lethal (State of Minnesota toxicity)

To determine if a material is Hazardous Waste one can:

- refer to the MSDS,
- look at what the material is “derived from”
- using generator knowledge
- Laboratory testing.

Clues can be picked up from the product labeling, i.e. “Danger” and “Caution”.

With that information, a determination can be made. If you are unsure, you may also manage the material as a hazardous waste and let the Chemical Waste Program make the determination for you.

Hazardous Waste Generator Responsibility

As a generator of a hazardous waste you are responsible to:

Properly mark the container.

- The container must have the words “Hazardous Waste”
- Description of the waste
- Accumulation start date

(Hazardous Waste Label or Hazardous Waste Packing Form fulfills the requirements)

Manage the container

- Keep the container closed (except when adding or removing waste).
- Store free-liquids away from drains (both storm and sanitary)
- Keep Flammable waste away from direct sunlight, heat sources and open flame
- Secure the containers to prevent damage, tampering or improper disposal.

How the University Manages its Hazardous Waste.

The University has a program to manage hazardous materials generated statewide. The Chemical Waste Program and Hazardous Materials Services will complete the proper shipping documents, collect the waste from the laboratory or storage areas, and properly transport the material the University's Hazardous Waste Facility.

What the generator of the waste must do is to notify the Chemical Waste Program that they have waste to pick-up. To do that, the generator must complete a hazardous waste packing form.

- 1) Determine that you have a Hazardous Waste
- 2) Properly mark the container/ Complete a hazardous Waste Packing Form.
 - Our office has Yellow Hazardous Waste labels to properly mark your containers. Containers must have the words "Hazardous Waste" a description of the waste, and accumulation start date.
 - To initiate a pick-up one must complete a hazardous waste packing form. The Hazardous Waste packing for is a 3-part form with a white top copy, a yellow data entry for and a pink or blue box copy.
- 3) Properly package the waste for transportation.
- 4) Mail the top two copies of the form to:

Chemical Waste Program,
Dept. of Environmental Health and Safety,
University of Minnesota TCEM,
501 23rd Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455,
Campus Mail Code 2681

the address is listed on the form, Or fax a copy of the form to (612) 626-1571

If the form is filled out properly, it takes about 2 weeks to process the form and generate the proper paperwork to transport the waste on public streets and highways.

Delays in pick-up may result from incomplete or missing information.

For additional information on the Chemical Waste Program refer to the University of Minnesota Hazardous Chemical Waste Management Guide book.

The Hazardous Chemical Waste Guidebook is also available online at:

http://www.dehs.umn.edu/hazwaste_chemwaste_umn_cwmgbk.htm

Personnel Training

For employees whose responsibilities include the labeling, preparing packing forms and properly packaging of hazardous waste, they must have formal initial training.

Your department or division may these training sessions on a regular basis.

Department of Environmental Health and Safety has available in-person training sessions are available 5 times a year. To register log on to:

http://www.dehs.umn.edu/training_labsafety.htm

On line training is also available at:

<http://www.dehs.umn.edu/training.htm#caows>

There is an additional requirement for those employees on the twin cities campus, The Minneapolis and Saint Paul campuses are Large Quantity Hazardous Waste Generators. The EPA requires those employees' at Large Quantity Generator sites that have Hazardous Waste responsibilities, receive annual refresher training on hazardous waste.