

	<b>Identification and Segregation of Chemical Waste</b>	Effective:	January 25, 2006
		Originator	D. Taddeo
		Last Updated	January 25, 2006
		Updated By:	D. Taddeo

**1. POLICY:**

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to assist all persons in the identification and segregation of chemical waste at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine.

**2. SCOPE:**

2.1 This policy applies to all faculty, staff and students at the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine.

**3. ROCEDURE:**

**Identification**

- Hazardous materials become hazardous wastes:
  - When the owner decides to discard them.
  - When the material poses a threat to public health or the environment and is mislabeled or inadequately labeled (unless corrected within 10 days) or is packaged in a deteriorated or damaged container (unless corrected within 96 hours), regardless of its expiration date.
  - One year after the expiration date has elapsed, unless the material will be used for its original purpose.

Chemical wastes exhibiting any of the following characteristics must be labeled, managed, and disposed of as Hazardous Waste:

- **Ignitability** (Examples: ethanol, xylene, hydrogen gas)
  - Flash point <140°F
  - Capable of causing fire through friction, moisture or reactivity
  - Also includes oxidizers and flammable compressed gases
- **Corrosivity** (Examples: nitric acid, sodium hydroxide)
  - pH ≤ 2 or ≥ 12.5
  - Corrosive to tissue or metals
- **Reactivity** (Examples: nitro compounds, picrates, cyanides)
  - Shock sensitive or potentially explosive
  - Reacts violently with air or water
  - Generates toxic gases when mixed with acids or bases
- **Toxicity** (Examples: heavy metals, pesticides, most organic chemicals)

- Pose a threat to human health or the environment due to carcinogenicity, acute or chronic toxicity, Bio accumulative properties or persistence in the environment

### **Labeling**

Proper labeling of hazardous waste is essential to the health and safety of laboratory personnel and EH&S staff. All hazardous waste must be labeled with a “Hazardous Waste” label (3/01) containing the following information:

- The words "*Hazardous Waste*"
- Name and address of generator
- The date waste was first put in the container, or for a discarded chemical, the date the hazardous waste label was applied
- The chemical composition, including how much of each component is in the waste, and the physical state of the waste
- A hazardous properties statement, such as “flammable” or “corrosive”

All portions of the label **must** be completed. See Safety Web, “Guidelines for Completing the Chemical Waste Label” for more information.

### **Segregation and Storage**

All wastes should be segregated and properly stored to ensure that chemical reactions will not occur if containers leak. Information about segregating materials is found on material safety data sheets and/or chemical references. Please use the following groups as you segregate your wastes for disposal:

- Bases (pH>10)
- Inorganic (Mineral) Acids (pH<4)
- Organic Acids (pH<4)
- Flammables
- Inorganic Oxidizers
- Organic Oxidizers
- Poisons
- Reactives
- Mercury Compounds
- Improper mixing of chemical waste will increase the cost of disposal. See Safety Web for additional information on managing liquid wastes to reduce disposal costs.
- All hazardous wastes must be stored in sealed containers that are in good condition and constructed of materials compatible with the waste. A secondary container should be used to contain the material in case the primary container is overfilled or leaks. Leave ample air space in all liquid waste containers to allow for expansion.
- Keep hazardous wastes in a secure area. Access to hazardous waste containers should be limited to those who have been properly trained. This training should be documented in your facility’s chemical hygiene plans.