

## What is Hazardous Waste?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has defined hazardous waste by its general characteristics or by the material's specific technical name. Wastes exhibiting the following characteristics are considered hazardous:

- **Ignitable** – Liquids with flash points below 60°C, non-liquids that cause fire through specific conditions, ignitable compressed gases and oxidizers.
- **Corrosive** – Aqueous wastes with a pH of less than or equal to 2, a pH greater than or equal to 12.5 or based on the liquids ability to corrode steel.
- **Reactive** – Unstable under normal conditions, may react with water, may give off toxic gases and may be capable of detonation or explosion under normal conditions or when heated.
- **Toxic** – Harmful when ingested or absorbed. Toxic waste presents a concern as it may be able to leach from waste and pollute groundwater.

## Segregation and Storage

Avoid mixing different types of chemicals. Follow the table below when different chemical wastes are mixed in a single container

Segregation group	Examples
Flammable/Combustible solvents	Acetone, Methanol, Xylene
Halogenated Solvents	Chloroform, Methylene Chloride
Nitrogenous Hydrocarbons	Trimethylamine, Diisopropylamine
Sulfurous Hydrocarbons	Dimethylsulfoxide, Dimethylsulfate
Mineral Acids	Hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid
Organic Acids	Trichloroacetic, Formic Acid
Bases	Calcium oxide, Sodium Hydroxide
Aqueous Solutions	Metal salts, ethidium bromide
Oils	Vacuum pump oil, motor oil

## Collection and Container Selection

Be sure to select the appropriate container for the waste stream.

- **Flammable liquids** – Glass bottles, steel cans, high density plastic container
- **Concentrated acid or bases** – 2.5 liter "acid" bottle.  
\*Note: One gallon glass bottles are unacceptable for acids or bases because of the high specific gravity of the substance and thinness of one gallon glass containers increases the likelihood of container breakage
- **Aqueous solution** – Glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic cans
- **Solid waste and contaminated solid waste** – Labeled trash can lined with plastic bag.

## Request a Waste Pick-Up via Risk Safety Solutions (RSS WASTE)

**Create a Waste Tag** – Select and create a New Tag button on home page ([refer to SOP](#))

- **Create a Template** – Follow the same steps for creating a waste tag and save it as a template
- **Request a Pickup** – Select Navigation icon > Select Tags > Select the arrow icon > move the items to Ready for Pickup.
- **View Tags/Templates** – Select Navigation > Select Tags > Select Tag or Template > Select Filter > choose Tag or Template.

\*\*Resources for proper segregation available at the following links:

[RCRA Chemical Compatibility List](#)  
[EPA Chemical Compatibility Chart](#)

### Liquid waste

- Aqueous solutions containing toxic metals
- Concentrated acidic solutions  
-Place in thick glass or plastic container
- Concentrated alkaline solutions  
-Place in plastic container
- Mercury
- Silver Salts
- Used vacuum pump oil



### Contaminated Glass

- Glass contaminated with chemicals only  
-Good condition bottles can be reused for waste disposal (see compatibility chart).
- Use HDPE container or puncture-resistant cardboard lined with plastic bag.



### Solid waste (lab debris)

- Contaminated PPE (gloves, disposable lab coats, booties, etc.)
- Kimwipes
- Absorbent materials used for chemicals
- Plasticware used for chemical procedures



### Chemical Sharps (with chemical label)

- Needles used with chemicals
- Razor blades, scalpels with chemical
- Glass pipettes with chemicals
- Microscope slides fixed with chemicals



### Gross Solid

- Silica and alumina gels
- Lightbulbs



### Clean Glass (Recycle)

- Intact or broken glass NOT contaminated with chemical or biological agents
- Rinse 3X and deface label before disposal
- Use puncture-resistant cardboard lined with a plastic bag.

