

Just a Few Words About Waste

Georgia Tech Environmental
Health and Safety

Waste- The Basic Rules

- Waste containers must be compatible with the waste (no acid in metal cans)
- Waste containers must be in secondary containment such as drum pallet or plastic bin
- Waste containers must be labeled with at least the name of the chemical(s) and approximate percentages from the time you start adding the waste
- Unless you are physically standing in front of the container adding waste, the container must be capped.

COMPATIBLE CONTAINERS

- Acids Corrode Metal
- HF Eats Glass
- Heat and Time Degrade Plastic
- <http://www.labsafety.com/refinfo/ezfacts/ezf164.htm>
- Consider Residuals in Reused Containers
- Ensure all Waste is Compatible

CONTAINER DRUTHERS

- NOTHING OVER 5 GAL/20 LT WITHOUT COORDINATION.
- SECONDARY CONTAINMENT
- SEGREGATE STREAMS



CONTAINER CLOSURE



What Qualifies as “Waste”?

- Anything you don't want anymore
- Anything that has been abandoned in place
 - Old/dusty bottles, obviously not used in a while
 - Multiple open bottles of the same chemical
 - Anything that you can't justify having a use for (left overs, over bought, bought for a project long since completed)

This is a problem

- This will result in an Notice of Violation and is fine-able unless you can justify it to the inspector
- If these all belong to different groups in your lab- label them as such!



Things which are obviously old and unused will result in an NOV

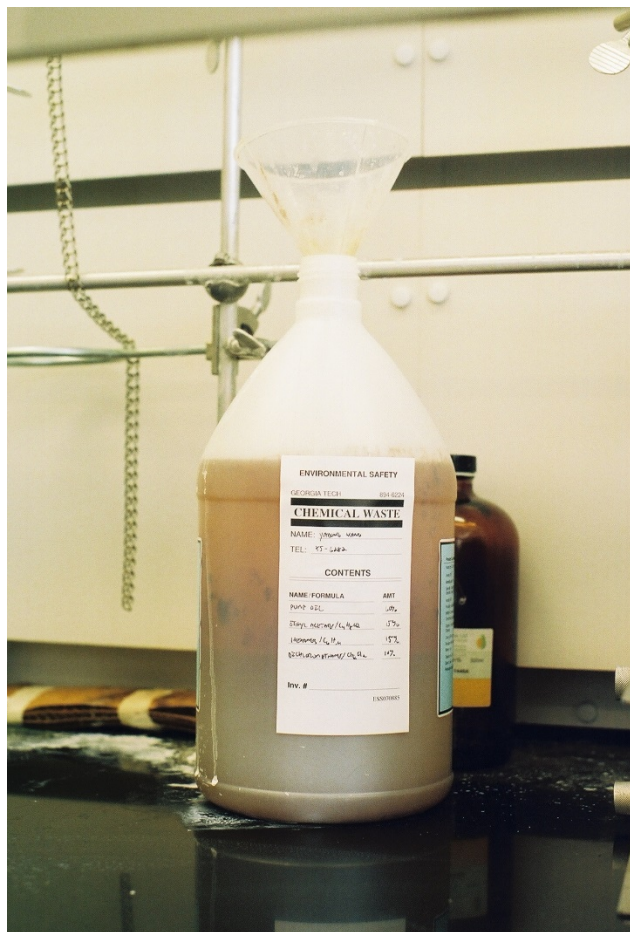


Waste

Organic Solvents-

- Bottle it! Use Chematix or call 4-6224 for a waste pick up
- Discard bottle by allowing the residue to evaporate off in the hood then deface and discard into glass trash lid off (previous inspectors have mis-interpreted lidded containers as attempts to discard chemicals in the trash)
- Glass trash boxes must be taken to the dumpster by you

What's wrong with this picture?



Waste Acids & Bases

- Bottle it!
- Bottle must be triple rinsed
- Rinsate may go down the drain
- Deface the bottle
- Discard (uncapped) into glass trash

Waste

Highly Hazardous (P-list)

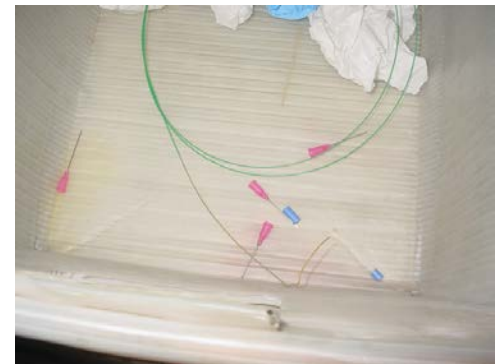
- Bottle it!
- Empty stock container is hazardous- treat as hazardous waste and call for pick up
- Check www.ehs.gatech.edu for the “highly hazardous” list to see what qualifies

While We Are on the Subject-

- Please remember that materials you use to clean up chemical spills (paper towels, sorbent materials) are chemical waste and need to be bagged and removed as chemical waste. Do not put these materials out for the custodians to remove

Sharps- Another kind of hazard

- Needles, razor blades, broken glass, broken wafers
- **MUST** go into an appropriate disposal container- not the trash!



Please Post in the Lab

**FOR WASTE PICK UP OR
HELP WITH NON-
EMERGENCY SPILLS
CALL**

GT EH&S at 4-6224

Allow 3 days for pick up

***For Emergencies call GT
Police at 4-2500***