



Dear Chemical Hygiene Officer, Safety Officer, Risk Manager, Science Teacher, Shop Teacher and all other personnel involved with school chemical waste disposal:

Welcome back to school! Here is guidance to help you properly dispose of school-generated hazardous chemical wastes and keep your school, staff, and students safe and healthy.

Please share and forward this information with all personnel in your school district who are involved in science and technical programs, art, custodial services, district maintenance and transportation shops, pool facilities, kitchens, health services, etc.

If your district is a member of the Puget Sound Educational Service District, contact Elizabeth Jakab, Puget Sound Workers' Compensation Trust at [ejakab@psesd.org](mailto:ejakab@psesd.org) for assistance. For general questions about hazardous materials and wastes, all King County School Districts can call the Local Hazardous Waste Business Line at 206-263-8899.

### Dispose of Hazardous Wastes at Least Annually

- Hazardous wastes are generated in many different areas in a school district including science labs, art and technical education, district shops, custodial services, pool facilities, kitchens, and health services, etc.
- Hazardous wastes include chemicals that are no longer needed, that can't be properly identified, are in leaking or degraded containers, are unnecessary, or the quantities are more than needed.
- All specimens stored in formaldehyde are hazardous. Formaldehyde is a toxin, carcinogen, and irritant.
- All mercury-containing thermometers, manometers, etc., are hazardous *and illegal* in Washington State schools.

### Disposal Rules at Business Waste Facilities in King County

**Pre-approval process:** Laboratory chemicals MUST be approved for disposal before you bring them to a King County facility. To obtain approval, email a list of your chemicals (including the chemical names, concentrations and volumes) to [haz.waste@kingcounty.gov](mailto:haz.waste@kingcounty.gov).

### Organizing Chemical Waste for Packaging

Don't mix wastes. Keep wastes in their own containers. Segregate and package them by hazard. Label chemicals that aren't in their original containers.

**The following groups of chemicals need to be packaged separately (check Safety Data Sheets for hazard description):**

- **Acids.**
- **Caustics** - Keep acids away from caustics.
- **Flammables.**
- **Indicators** can go in one package except for those dissolved in alcohol, which go into the flammable pack.
- **Oxidizers** - Keep oxidizers away from all other chemicals and flammable packaging materials. **Ammonium nitrate** is a strong oxidizer that should always be stored and transported separately from all other materials.
- **Perchloric and nitric acids** - Store these in separate containers and in separate secondary containment. They are strong oxidizers and highly corrosive and must be managed carefully.
- Less hazardous **salts** can go together in one package.
- **Water reactives** must be separated from ANY water or water-based solution.

- **Toxics** that don't fit the above categories can be packaged together.

## **Packaging Chemical Waste**

- **Be careful!** Use long-sleeved chemical-resistant gloves, goggles, a chemical-resistant apron, and appropriate clothing while packaging (including closed, low-heeled shoes, cotton or other natural fiber clothing covering your skin, and your hair pulled back).
- Ensure that all lids, caps, and stoppers are firmly in place. If needed, tape them securely in place.
- Secondary containment is a leak-proof container used to separate smaller containers of chemical waste by hazard to protect you, your vehicle, and the people who receive the chemical wastes. You can use plastic packaging with lids, such as 5-gallon paint buckets or smaller plastic containers with secure lids, as secondary containment.
- Do **not** use plastic garbage bags.
- Your secondary containers must be marked with an arrow to indicate the upright position.
- Do **not** use cardboard boxes to hold flammables, reactives, or oxidizers.
- Protect acid containers by taping the original protective styrofoam package around them solidly from top to bottom (and label the Styrofoam, too). Place these with other carefully packed acids into secondary containers.
- We recommend you use absorbent materials (like unscented kitty litter or automotive absorbent) as fillers around chemical wastes in your secondary containers to absorb spills and protect waste containers from bumping and breaking.
- **Label all containers!** Ensure that ALL waste chemical containers, including secondary containers, are labeled to identify the chemicals/mixtures they hold and their associated primary hazards.

## **Transporting Chemical Wastes**

- Do **not** transport chemicals in the same compartment as the driver or passengers. It is safest to transport chemicals in the back of a delivery truck with separate driver's compartment or in the covered bed of a pickup truck.
- **Never** use a personal vehicle for transporting school district chemical materials or wastes.
- Secure all chemical containers and packages so they can't tip over, roll or break.

## **Financial Incentives**

The King County Small Quantity Generator Voucher Incentive Program (VIP) can help you if your chemical wastes exceed the allowable limits at the Business Waste facilities in King County and require you to pay a vendor for hazardous waste disposal. You can find the allowable limits at [www.hazwastehelp.org](http://www.hazwastehelp.org). The VIP can also help you with a variety of other hazardous material management, health, and safety issues.

The VIP can provide you with reimbursement of 75% of disposal costs or other hazmat management costs up to a maximum of \$599 per business site per year. You can use a voucher to:

- Test your wastes at a certified laboratory to characterize what you have and to inform your disposal options.
- Dispose or recycle hazardous waste properly.
- Purchase new products that are less hazardous.
- Conduct clean-up to prevent pollution.
- Purchase or lease equipment for storing, recycling, or treating your wastes.
- Purchase new equipment or repair existing equipment to reduce generating hazardous waste.
- Purchase personal protective equipment that protects you and your employees from exposure to hazardous materials.
- Purchase spill kits or cleanup and containment materials.

Call the Business Waste Line at **206-263-8899** and ask for a free visit to find out if you're eligible for a voucher and receive technical assistance to help your school institute best management practices for managing hazardous chemicals and wastes.

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County and the Puget Sound Workers' Compensation Trust are partnering throughout the school year to bring this information and assistance to you. We are eager to be of service and help make managing your hazardous materials easier.

Best,

Elizabeth, Julie and Sue

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