

# University of Illinois Materials Research Lab (MRL)

August 2019



## Important Dates and Reminders

### AVS Prairie Chapter Meeting

- September 5<sup>th</sup>
- Registration Details: [Here](#)

### Hands On Fire Extinguisher Training:

- Held at MRL - Put on by the Urbana Fire Department
- 9:30am on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>
- Location: 190 ESB/ Grassy area by ESB loading dock
- Email [Maisie Kingren](#) to reserve your spot

## DAILY REMINDERS

- Use buddy system when working in labs
- Do not leave labs unlocked
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Remove lab PPE before leaving lab spaces. PPE is not allowed in public areas

# Safety Newsletter

This month's topic is an intro to chemical waste.

## What is Chemical Waste?

Examples of chemical waste include but are not limited to: unused and surplus reagent chemicals; chemical waste generated from research and educational experiments and procedures; spent solvents, stains, strippers, thinners, varnishes, and wood preservatives; used oil of all types; batteries; non-returnable gas cylinders; spent acids and bases; personal protective equipment, laboratory equipment, and glassware contaminated with chemicals; clean-up debris generated from chemical spills; discarded equipment containing hazardous materials; photographic film processing solutions; pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers; mercury-containing items; unused and surplus cleaners (e.g., bleach, carpet cleaners, disinfectants, floor polish and wax, toilet cleaners); unused and surplus paint, both oil and latex; aerosol cans (e.g., air fresheners, paint, cleaners, etc.); fuel oils; and preserved specimens.

## How to request a chemical waste pickup?

1. Identify materials for disposal. Check with others in your department or building to see if they would like your unused/surplus chemicals.
2. The waste management system uses a list of tens of thousands of chemical products and lab-generated mixtures that have been disposed of in the past. To search this list on the DRS web site, click on the Waste Management tab, then select [Regulated Waste](#), then click on the Access the Waste Management App button. Login using your netID and password, then click on the "Chemical Name Table" icon. If your chemical or product is not on the list, you may choose "New Chemical" (UI# 1).
3. Submit a pickup request on the DRS waste pickup page, as described above, then click on the "New Pickup Request" icon. Detailed instructions are available at the top of the [Regulated Waste](#) page.
4. If you have a chemical product or mixture not listed on the master list, choose "New Chemical." If you have a commercial product, add the product name, manufacturer, and web address of the Safety Data Sheet in the Waste Description box. If it is a lab-generated mixture, list each constituent and the percent by weight. Include any solvent, including water.

## Then What?

DRS will process your request and notify you when your pickup is scheduled. You will receive instructions about printing labels for all the chemical waste container listed on your request. You must attach each label to the matching chemical waste container before the pickup date.

Call 217-333-2755 or email [cws@illinois.edu](mailto:cws@illinois.edu) and ask for additional assistance from the DRS staff.

## Useful Contacts

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MRL Safety Committee  
[safety@mrl.illinois.edu](mailto:safety@mrl.illinois.edu)

MRL Safety Engineer  
 Maisie Kingren  
[mlswans2@illinois.edu](mailto:mlswans2@illinois.edu)  
 217-244-8637

Division of Research Safety  
[drs@illinois.edu](mailto:drs@illinois.edu)  
 217-333-2755  
[www.drs.illinois.edu](http://www.drs.illinois.edu)

Safety and Compliance  
[fsserviceoffice@illinois.edu](mailto:fsserviceoffice@illinois.edu)  
 217-333-0340  
[www.fs.illinois.edu/services/safety-and-compliance](http://www.fs.illinois.edu/services/safety-and-compliance)

## How Do I collect and Store Chemical Waste?

The IEPA has established specific requirements for the storage of chemical wastes. You must ensure that the following requirements for chemical waste containers are followed:

1. Keep all chemical waste containers closed at all times except when waste is being actively added to the container. The IEPA defines a "closed" container as being "vapor tight" and "spill proof."
2. Label waste containers with words that identify the contents of the container, such as "Waste - Acetone." The term "Waste" should be included on the label in addition to the properly identified container contents. Complete chemical names shall be used to identify the contents of the container. Abbreviations and chemical formulas are not permitted. If a generic name such as "Waste - Halogenated Solvents" is used, a list identifying what chemicals are in the container must be kept nearby.
3. Label chemical waste containers before or at the time the first drop of waste is added to the container.
4. All waste containers must be in good condition and be compatible with the waste in the container.
5. Reuse chemical containers only if they are in good condition (no cracks, major dents) and have a threaded cap that can seal tightly. The DRS will not accept broken or leaking chemical waste containers. Remove or completely deface the manufacturer's label or any other label.
6. Unused or outdated chemicals in their original containers with labels identifying the contents do not need the word "Waste" written on the labels. If the label appears faded or illegible, affix a new label to the bottle. Reattach labels that are coming loose.
7. Avoid excessive accumulations of waste. Have waste removed by DRS on a regular basis and do not store more than 55 gallons of hazardous waste in your lab or work area.

### Can I pour chemical waste down the drain?

- NO! Only aqueous, water based, liquids containing non-hazardous chemicals may be poured down the sanitary sewer (sink drain). See [Disposal of Liquid Non-hazardous Chemicals](#) for a list of chemicals that you may dispose of down the sanitary sewer.

### Can I put my chemical waste in the trash?

- NO. Absolutely no chemical waste may be disposed of in the trash, even if it is considered non-hazardous or is a very small amount. Chemical wastes and chemically contaminated articles should be disposed of via the DRS chemical waste disposal program. The DRS manages all chemical wastes according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) regulations.

[DRS Chemical Waste Quick Start Guide](#)