

Pollution Prevention: Minimizing Hazardous Waste Fall 2023

Everyone using hazardous materials is responsible for managing the waste generated by this work according to university policy, a policy based on federal and state regulations. Part of this management is to explore ways of eliminating or reducing the toxicity and/or quantity of chemical waste generated in support of the university's waste minimization program. The program is a regulatory requirement that aims to reduce the danger these products pose to human health and the environment.

There are several ways of accomplishing this to fulfill the requirements of our hazardous waste minimization program.

Eliminate/Substitute – Determine if processes generating chemical waste in your area can be eliminated. If not, consider substituting nonhazardous products that may be more environmentally friendly wherever feasible.

Minimize – Order only the amount of product needed to accomplish a job or task. Employing micro methods for chemical experiments and processes whenever possible reduces the quantity of waste generated.

Separate – Do not mix non-hazardous and hazardous waste streams. Mixing increases the quantity of waste that will be classified as hazardous.

Inventory – Manage your chemical inventory to prevent overstocking of chemicals and transfer unneeded chemicals before they expire so others can use them.

Recycle/Reuse/Repurpose – Explore to see if chemicals can be safely used in another process or recycled. Contact EHS to ensure this is accomplished within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. If you have unused products that are no longer needed, see if they can be used by others in your area or other departments before classifying them as waste.

Dispose Properly – All hazardous waste generated needs to be managed by following all EHS protocols including requesting collection.

Have you tried any of these, or other, ways of reducing hazardous waste? Tell us! Sharing what works (or doesn't) with EHS and the university community may help others to reduce their waste stream, too. Documenting these efforts, successful or not, demonstrates to the EPA and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that the university is doing its due diligence in maintaining an active waste minimization program.



Chemical Inventory

Is your chemical inventory up to date?

There are many parts to managing a chemical inventory properly, including proper storage, labeling, handling, housekeeping, and documentation. An accurately documented inventory also makes it possible to apply many of the recommendations for the university's waste minimization program as required by the EPA.

EHS provides several resources for all groups needing chemical inventories, including areas in agriculture, science, engineering, maintenance, arts, etc.

Training is available in hazardous waste management and hazard communication.

The EHS website provides many other resources, including a Chemical Inventory Template for your documentation needs. Look for resources under both Lab Safety and Hazardous Materials/Waste programs.

Documentation should be updated regularly to keep the listing as accurate as possible. At a minimum, this needs to be done annually although doing so more frequently is encouraged.



Hazardous Waste Training

EHS provides several training courses for managing hazardous materials and waste, courses that may be required depending on your role with these substances. The online Hazard Communication with GHS course covers labeling requirements, among other topics, to minimize exposure to and accidental release of hazardous materials. In-person Hazardous Waste Management Workshops and Environmental Waste Awareness Trainings address several topics, including the waste minimization program and other federal, state, and university rules and regulations. The most current schedule, as well as additional information on safety training, may be found on the EHS website.

<https://www.uidaho.edu/dfa/division-operations/ehs/safety-training>

GSMU: <https://uidaho.gosignmeup.com/public/>

Canvas: <https://canvas.uidaho.edu/>

Inappropriate Disposal of Hazardous Materials

Some people may not realize that what they are throwing out is a hazardous waste. If you are unsure, please reach out to Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) for a consultation regarding your situation.

As the new academic year begins, take a moment to review the resources below and share them with your employees and students.

- Adherence to the university's Hazardous Materials Management and Disposal Policies and Procedures (<https://www.uidaho.edu/dfa/division-operations/ehs/hazmat-policies>) ensures compliance with federal, state and local regulations.
- The Hazardous Waste Management Workshop is presented throughout the year. All professors, supervisors and students in labs that use hazardous chemicals must attend this workshop per APM 35.40 (<https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/policy/policies/apm/35/40>).
- Biohazardous waste management is governed by University of Idaho Institutional Biosafety Committee Policies (<https://www.uidaho.edu/research/faculty/research-assurances/biosafety/policies-and-regulations>)
- The University of Idaho also has a policy to govern bloodborne pathogens (BBP) (<https://www.uidaho.edu/dfa/division-operations/ehs/programs/industrial-hygiene/blood-borne-pathogens>). It applies to all employees and students having occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Consultation and training opportunities are available through EHS.



Shipping of Dangerous Goods

Hazardous Materials and Dangerous Goods are substances or materials determined by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety and property when transported in commerce. These materials include hazardous chemicals, radioactive materials, infectious substances, biological samples, compressed gases, dry ice, lithium batteries, aerosol cans and other pressurized items, and more. DOT and IATA regulations require that every person offering for transport or receiving hazardous materials/dangerous goods complete DOT/IATA training. EHS and the Office of Research Assurances (ORA) have DOT/IATA trained staff to ship hazardous materials and dangerous goods being offered to commercial shippers for you.

To ship dangerous goods, email either EHS at safety@uidaho.edu or ORA at biosafety@uidaho.edu. If you are unsure whether your material is hazardous, ask us for assistance. Please contact ORA for shipping biological samples, infectious substances, or dry ice; and EHS for any other hazardous material. EHS or ORA will pack, label, complete the paperwork and schedule your dangerous goods for pickup by a shipper. EHS will provide you with a worksheet to let you know what information is required to ship your material(s). Complete it and email it back to EHS. Please note that an index number is required to cover the cost of shipping and supplies.

Hazardous Materials Management and Disposal Policies and Procedures

The University of Idaho complies with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Idaho Hazardous Waste Management Act, and other federal and state laws, rules and regulations which pertain to inventory, use and disposal of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes.

Included in these policies are the procedures employees are expected to follow in order to ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations.

University employees are responsible for knowing and complying with these policies procedures. Administrators are expected to ensure that their employees are familiar with university procedures, to make these policies available, and to provide opportunity for employees to attend workshops in the management of hazardous wastes and hazardous materials.

The Hazardous Materials Management and Disposal Policies and Procedures are available on the EHS website.

EHS Contacts

In an emergency, call 911

For urgent situations, please call until you connect with someone—do not rely on voice mail, text or email. After hours, contact U of I Security at 208-885-7054.

EHS Email	safety@uidaho.edu
EHS Website	uidaho.edu/safety
EHS Office	208-885-6524
Executive Director	208-885-6524
Fire Safety	208-885-6525
Hazardous Materials	208-885-6279
Industrial Hygiene	208-885-5977
Occupational Safety	208-885-6297
Radiation Safety	208-885-6524
Safety Training	208-885-6524