Non Hazardous Waste

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS SHOULD NOT BE PUT IN DUMPSTERS

- Not all laboratory wastes are hazardous and so should not be entered into the SFASU hazardous waste program. No wastes, which are defined as hazardous by EPA may be placed in the dumpsters. Refer to hazardous waste section of this manual for guidelines to identifying hazardous waste.

- Liquid waste (i.e., bottles of unused or partially used solutions) may never be disposed of in dumpsters, as liquid wastes are not permitted at the municipal landfill.

- Empty containers of waste commercial products or chemicals are acceptable if no freestanding liquids remain in the containers and all disposal requirements noted on the label are complied with.

- Pesticide containers, or those which contained acutely hazardous materials, must be triple rinsed and the rinse water collected for disposal as hazardous waste.

- Empty containers must be perforated on both ends and/or crushed, and the container labels defaced or otherwise marked to indicate the containers no longer contain hazardous materials.

- Animal wastes containing formaldehyde are not acceptable in dumpsters; carcasses and the liquid (i.e. formalin) should be disposed of as hazardous waste.

- Certain solid, non-hazardous chemicals are suitable for disposal to the sanitary landfill. However, such chemicals should not be placed in laboratory trash containers as custodial personnel have been instructed not to handle any chemical wastes. Non-hazardous solids should be placed directly into the dumpsters.

- The following types of solid laboratory wastes are generally considered non-hazardous or of low toxicity and so may be put directly in the dumpsters. As noted above, solutions of such wastes should not be put in the laboratory trash containers. Check with ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY, and RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT for quantities greater than 5 pounds.

  a. Organic chemicals:
     - Sugars and starches
     - Naturally occurring a-amino acids and salts
     - Citric acid and its Na, K, Mg, Ca, NH4 salts
     - Lactic acid and its Na, K, Mg, Ca, NH4 salts

  b. Inorganic chemicals
     - Sulfates: Na, K, Mg, Ca, Sr, NH4
     - Phosphates: Na, K, Mg, Ca, Sr, NH4
     - Carbonates: Na, K, Mg, Ca, Sr, NH4
     - Oxides: B, Mg, Ca, Sr, Al, Si, Ti, Mn, Fe, Co, Cu, Zn
     - Chlorides: Na, K, Mg
     - Fluorides: Ca
     - Borates: Na, K, Mg, Ca

  c. Laboratory materials not contaminated with hazardous chemicals:
- Chromatographic absorbents
- Filter paper, filter aids, and glassware
- Rubber and plastic protective clothing

- Non-hazardous gases (e.g. carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, neon) may generally be vented to the atmosphere via a certified and functioning laboratory fume hood. Please check with EHS&RM prior to such venting, particularly for large volumes. While many such gases are not toxic, if vented at a rate greater than the removal rate of the fume hood, an asphyxiant hazard could be created in the laboratory.

- If there is any question as to whether a waste is acceptable for land filling, please contact the Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Department (468-4532).