



Universal Waste Disposal Policy and Guidelines plus Electronics Recycling

6 NYCRR Subpart 374-3 from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation sets the Standards for Universal Wastes. The University at Albany incorporates these standards into their Universal Waste Disposal Policy and Guidelines.

Subpart 374-3 establishes requirements for managing Batteries, Pesticides, Thermostats and Lamps as Universal Waste as described in subdivision 374-3.1.

BATTERIES:

All used or unwanted batteries generated at the University at Albany must be disposed as either universal waste or hazardous waste. Spent lead-acid batteries not handled as hazardous waste, must go out as universal waste. Vendors supplying lead-acid batteries to the University at Albany shall be required to remove and dispose of these batteries when discarded by the University at Albany as universal waste in accordance with Subpart 374-3 and state contract requirements. Anyone disposing of lead-acid batteries through the state contracts must keep on file all signed shipping papers for at least three years. All other types of batteries, such as alkaline, nickel cadmium, nickel iron, nickel metal hydride, carbon zinc, zinc air, mercuric oxide, button cells, silver oxide, zinc carbon (mercury-containing), mercury, alkaline (mercury-containing), lithium metal, ion and magnesium, lead-acid and sealed lead -acid (non-automotive), are all considered to be universal wastes when discarded and to be handled in accordance with Subpart 374-3. Batteries should be sorted by type for disposal. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety is responsible for coordinating the disposal of universal waste at the University at Albany. Contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at 442-3495 in Chemistry B73, if you have any questions about battery disposal, if you need waste battery containers or if you have batteries that need to be discarded.

PESTICIDES:

All discarded or recalled pesticides at the University at Albany are to be handled as either universal waste or hazardous waste, depending on the pesticide. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety coordinates the disposal of discarded or recalled pesticides and must be contacted at 442-3495 in Chemistry B73, whenever pesticides are ready for disposal or when a pesticide has been recalled as defined in Subpart 374-3.

MERCURY THERMOSTATS:

All discarded mercury thermostats must be handled as either universal waste or hazardous waste at the University at Albany. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety at 442-3495 in Chemistry B73 will coordinate the disposal of any mercury thermostats generated at

the University at Albany. Mercury thermometers are disposed of as hazardous waste through the EH&S Office. The EH&S Office will swap out, at no charge, any mercury-containing thermometers for non-mercury containing ones. Please contact the office in advance, to arrange a swap out.

LAMPS:

All lamps/bulbs, excluding incandescent, are to be handled as either universal or hazardous waste at the University at Albany, due to their mercury content. This includes all fluorescent lamps (including U-shaped, circular and compact), High Intensity Discharge (HID), metal halide, mercury-containing bulbs from instruments, such as microscopes (HBO short arc lamps), etc. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety coordinates the disposal of all discarded lamps (except incandescent) at the University at Albany. The Environmental Health and Safety Office (EH&S) must be contacted at 442-3495 in Chemistry B73 for proper packaging instructions and turnover to EH&S. It is important to prevent breakage of any lamp/bulb prior to disposal, in order to not release minor amounts of mercury into the air.

COMPUTER MONITORS AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS/EQUIPMENT:

Though not technically considered universal waste, computer monitors and electronic components/equipment may contain heavy metals, such as lead, that are hazardous to the environment when disposed of incorrectly. The University at Albany recycles all computer monitors and electronic components/equipment, once Equipment Management has declared it as surplus equipment. Contact the EH&S Office at 442-3495 in Chemistry B73 for more information.