

INTENT

In accordance with Federal and State regulations, the University at Albany is required to have an on-going hazardous waste minimization program. Hazardous Waste Minimization is the reduction, to the extent feasible, of hazardous waste that is generated or subsequently treated, stored, or disposed. Waste minimization includes any source reduction or recycling activity undertaken by a generator that results in: (1) the reduction of total volume or quantity of hazardous waste; (2) the reduction of toxicity of hazardous waste; or (3) both, as long as the reduction is consistent with the goal of minimizing present and future threats to human health and the environment.

Over the last several years, the University has undertaken several waste minimization activities. The Chemistry Department has significantly minimized the hazardous waste generated in their teaching labs by changing the types of experiments performed, by converting to less toxic chemicals and by performing microchemistry techniques. Facilities Management has been purchasing green cleaning products. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety has been proactive in recycling waste and providing information when asked on the toxicity of chemicals before they are ordered.

POLICY

The EHS Office strongly encourages waste minimization efforts on campus and suggests the following:

1. **ALWAYS ORDER THE SMALLEST QUANTITY NEEDED OF ANY CHEMICAL** as it is safer to store and less expensive to dispose of smaller quantities. For the most part, it is more expensive to dispose of a chemical correctly than it is to purchase it.
2. Whenever possible, try to order the least toxic chemical required for your research. The Safety Data Sheet can provide you with this information or you can contact our office in Chemistry B72 at 518 442-3495.
3. When you are finished with a chemical and you are not intending on using it for another two years or so, do **not** hang on to it. Try to broker it to a fellow researcher. Old chemicals can pose a serious safety hazard especially when peroxidizable or highly reactive. See the University's Chemical Hygiene Plan, Appendix G.
4. Label all Chemical containers with their contents, even if non-hazardous. Unknown chemicals are expensive to identify and could pose a potentially serious health and safety hazard.
5. **When leaving University employment, please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, so that we can facilitate appropriate chemical clean out of your labs. See Appendix S for the University's Lab Decommissioning Policy and Checklist.**

