

# SLCC Hazardous Materials and Waste Disposal

## Definition

Hazardous materials are defined as those materials that are: flammable, corrosive, air or water reactive or toxic. It is the responsibility of the Lab Coordinator to manage their hazardous material in their lab. This includes proper packaging and labeling of unwanted hazardous materials per the following guidelines, and applicable regulations.

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is charged with the responsibility of defining if unwanted materials are hazardous or not, and removing all hazardous materials, used and unused, from Salt Lake Community College facilities. EHS provides guidance on how to properly package and label waste material. Materials picked up by EHS are recycled, used by someone else, or disposed of at an EPA approved facility.

## Removal

- Use safe containers. Please package all hazardous materials properly for transport by EHS personnel, see packaging requirements below.

## Collection, Storage, Handling, Transport

- Maintain all hazardous materials in appropriate closed containers with airtight lids. Keep containers closed at all times except when adding or removing the material.
- Keep all hazardous materials targeted for EHS inside your lab or shop at all times. EHS will pick up from your lab. Storage in corridors or pathways for exiting is a violation of Fire Code.
- Do not mix incompatible chemicals (i.e. oxidizers with flammables) unless under controlled circumstances in a fume hood as part of an experiment.
- Do not mix hazardous materials with non-hazardous materials. It greatly increases waste disposal costs.
- Accurately label all containers with chemical names and all constituents. It is imperative to avoid producing containers whose contents are unknown. Such materials are very expensive to dispose of. If containers of unknown chemicals are found, please contact EHS to make special arrangements for disposal.
- Store chemicals following established guidelines.

## **Packaging Requirements**

- The outside of the containers must be clean and free of chemical contamination.
- Use appropriate containers. All glass containers must be securely packaged to prevent breakage during transport.
- All containers of liquids must have screw lids and must not leak when inverted. Corks, cotton plugs, tape, or parafilm are not acceptable lids for containers of hazardous materials.
- If possible, use the same container for disposal of used material that held the new material originally.
- Metal cans are not acceptable for accumulating hazardous solvents or corrosives - except for waste oil. Five gallon polyethylene containers are available at no cost from EHS.
- Loose solid materials must be placed in a sealed container or in a cardboard box lined with two polyethylene bags.
- Containers storing hazardous materials must be kept closed, except when adding or removing contents.

## **Non-Infectious Sharps Disposal**

The disposal procedure for non-infectious sharps is in place to provide protection to custodial staff and disposal crews from injury. This is in response to actual injuries due to unknown sharp items placed in regular trash containers. Placing glass and other non-infectious sharps in regular trash containers presents a real hazard to custodians when removing trash bags from the labs to the trash bins outside. Sharps can easily puncture plastic trash bags and present poking, cutting, and contamination hazards to custodians. Placing the non-infectious sharps waste in the provided plastic lined boxes contains the sharps, so that they do not become a problem for the custodians and trash disposal crews during transportation and disposal.

The responsibility of the lab personnel:

- The lab personnel are responsible to properly segregate and package all their unwanted hazardous materials for disposal. This includes chemical, radioactive, infectious, and noninfectious sharps.
- Only non-infectious sharps are to be placed in the non-infectious sharps containers.
- Bottles of any size larger than 1 pint are not to be put in the containers unless they are broken. Large bottles are to be set-aside for the custodians to throw out separately.
- Metal sharps such as needles, syringes, and razor blades should go in the red biohazard (infectious) waste containers.
- Lab personnel are responsible for closing up the boxes when they are full and arranging for them to be picked up by using the FIXIT system.

- Any containers that are overfilled and not closed are not safe for the custodians to handle and will not be picked up, but will be put back in the lab for the lab personnel to properly close.

NOTE: Labs may provide their own containers (boxes, etc) if the containers provided by custodial services and/or EHS do not meet the specific needs of the lab. However, the lab should consult with custodial services and/or EHS to ensure that the containers used will accommodate the desired outcome of protecting custodial staff from injury.