



## HOW TO - HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Disposal of hazardous materials on the Okanagan campus follows 4 sequential steps:

### 1 Identification – In order to dispose of a material, you should know: *Is it hazardous or non-hazardous?*

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS have come into contact with chemicals / biologicals and cannot be easily decontaminated. The Safety Data Sheet can help you decide if it is hazardous.

NON-HAZARDOUS MATERIALS are uncontaminated used lab items (such as gloves). Hazardous-looking items (such as medical devices, tubing and needles) are hazardous.

*What is the composition?*

ACCURATE DESCRIPTION – for bottles of solid or liquid chemicals a description of the waste must be known. There are two options:

#### Incorrect Descriptions:

*70% methanol in water*

*2 mmol isopropyl alcohol*

*80% water, 20% EDTA*

1. Created wastes – bottles of mixed materials created in the lab need to have their contents identified – **in percent, totalling 100%, using the full name of ingredients.**

2. Prepackaged wastes – wastes in their original packaging can be submitted under the name on the package.

#### Correct Descriptions:

*80% acetone, 15% methanol, 5% Omega Biotech DNA Fast LT Buffer*

*99% dichloromethane, 1% ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid*

### 2 Packaging – the HSE Environment > Hazardous Materials Management Website

provides examples of the correct packaging and containers for your waste.

HSE supplies some containers (bottles, buckets) and some containers are the responsibility of the lab (autoclave bags, sharps containers).

### 3 Labelling – there are 3 labels available on our website:

**Original labels** – disposal in the original container does not require a further label.

**Chemical Waste Tag** – to dispose of chemicals or items contaminated with chemicals

**Bio Waste Tag** – to dispose of biologically contaminated items or biologically risky items (sharps, pharmaceuticals).

All packaging must:

- Prevent leakage
- Seal in transport
- Be compatible with contents

All labels must clearly identify the contents and originator (supervisor, researcher...)

**Removal** – To request removal of the wastes, please use the Hazardous Waste Inventory System (HWIS) from our Hazardous Materials Management Website.

**4 CHEMICAL WASTES** - Containers of chemicals are disposed of using the “chemical” side of the system.

**OTHER WASTES** - All other requests are made through the “other” side of the HWIS.

You will receive an inventory or notification of our pick-up date.

Please have all materials ready.

PRINT YOUR WASTE INVENTORY AND  
ATTACH IT TO THE WASTES