HAZARDOUS WASTE IN SCHOOLS

This document has been prepared as a brief summary to assist school personnel in identifying hazardous waste storage areas and proper labeling. Some of the wastes listed in this document must clearly be managed as hazardous waste, while others may require the owner or operator to make that determination. Additional hazardous waste management information is available online at www.dtsc.ca.gov and www.EHinfo.org/hazmat. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact HMCD at (408) 918-3400 and ask to speak to the HMCD Phone Duty Officer.

A. What is Hazardous Waste?

Is any material that when discarded exhibits any of the following characteristics: Toxicity, Reactivity, Ignitability, Corrosivity (TRIC) or is State or Federally listed.

B. Areas/Activities That Generate Hazardous Waste

☐ Anatomy; ☐ Art/Photography; ☐ Auto Body Shop; ☐ Auto Repair Shop; ☐ Biology; ☐ Ceramics; ☐ Chemistry; ☐ Custodial; ☐ Dentistry; ☐ Drama/Set Design; ☐ Facilities Maintenance; ☐ Genetics; ☐ Graphic Arts; ☐ Grounds Maintenance; ☐ Health Office; ☐ Histology; ☐ Information Tech/Computer Science; ☐ Jewelry; ☐ Machining/Welding; ☐ Mechanical/Robotics; ☐ Paint Shop; ☐ Universal Waste Management; ☐ Veterinary Science; ☐ Wood Shop

C. Typical Hazardous Waste Streams

Universal Wastes

- Aerosol Cans (paints, adhesives, sealers, WD40, cleaners)
- Dental amalgam (mercury)
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, lantern, small sealed non-automotive lead-acid batteries)
- CRTs (Computer monitors, TVs)
- Electronic Devices (CPUs, peripherals, laptops, calculators, cell phones, circuitry driven devices)
- Lighting Wastes (Fluorescent lamp tubes/CFLs; high pressure sodium, mercury vapor, high-intensity discharge lamps)
- Mercury-containing items (e.g., thermometers, thermostats, mercury switches)

Toxic Wastes

- Animal Specimens and Preservatives (Formalin/Formaldehyde)
- Ceramic Glazes (metals)
- Contaminated Solids (i.e., absorbent, cardboard, paper towels, rags, eye droppers, Q-Tips, Chem wipes, filters)
- Coolants (glycols)
- Gel Electrophoresis waste (Ethidium Bromide)
- Grinding waste (metal fines/powder)
- Lead Foil from X-Ray bites (lead)
- Foundry Sand (organic binders, metals)
- Oil from equipment/vehicle maintenance (includes CNC/lathe coolant oils)
Toxic Wastes

- Paints:
  - Latex (metals)
  - Oil based (includes varnish, stains)
- PCB Light Ballasts
- Pesticides (old/expired/unused)
- Photo solutions with silver (used fixer)
- Rags contaminated with oil or paint
- Solder Wastes (metals, metal oxides)
- Sterilization solutions (Cidex®, glutaraldehyde, Sporox®)
- Used Oil and Gas filters

Reactive Wastes

- Waste containing metallic Sodium or Magnesium (in aqueous solutions)

D. Labeling Requirements

HAZARDOUS WASTES

Containers must be marked with the following:
- Words “HAZARDOUS WASTE;”
- Accumulation start date;
- Name & address of generator;
- Composition of waste;
- Physical state of waste;
- Hazardous Properties.

UNIVERSAL WASTES (UW)

Containers* must be marked with the following:
- Description of contents
- Accumulation start date.

* For CRTs and UW electronic devices, you can label the pallet or storage area instead of each device.

Ignitable Wastes

- Oil-Based Paints
- Organics (extractions, glass cleaners, solvent carriers)
- Paint cleaners (wash water, thinner, acetone)
- Spent Reagents (esp. from experiments)
- Stain and de-stain solutions

Corrosive Wastes

- Acids (column chromatography, TFA/trifluoroacetic acid, glass wash)
- Batteries (automotive-type, UPS systems)
- Jewelry Pickling solutions (acids)
- Parts washing/degreasing (alkaline)