



Hazardous Materials Fact Sheet Sodium Azide Disposal

Sodium azide is used at UNO predominantly in the preservation of samples and stock solutions. It is often a better choice for this purpose than thimerosal, as sodium azide does not contain mercury. However, sodium azide does pose other hazards. Sodium azide can react with metals to create explosive heavy-metal azides and even dilute solutions can be explosive if heated to near its decomposition temperature. Sodium azide is also acutely toxic.

Any unwanted product and all **empty containers** of sodium azide should be tagged for disposal by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). Also, solutions with greater than 0.02% sodium azide should be collected and tagged for disposal by EHS. Requests for pick-ups can be submitted on-line at: [Chemical Waste Pick-up Request](#)

Note: any metal items used to handle sodium azide, (i.e., spatulas, containers) can also result in the formation of heavy metal azides and must be cleaned thoroughly.