

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FACT SHEET

Universal Waste Storage and Disposal

The universal waste regulations provide alternate management standards for certain hazardous wastes. These regulations are found at [Chapter 25 of Title 128](#) – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations. The following outlines Universal Waste at UNO and the regulatory requirements for proper storage and disposal.

Mercury Containing Lamps

Lamps and bulbs that would be hazardous waste, such as fluorescent, high-pressure sodium, mercury vapor, and metal halide lamps may be universal waste.

- Store all used mercury containing lamps in proper storage containers. Sturdy cardboard containers are suitable.
- All storage containers must be labeled “Universal Waste – Lamps”
- All storage containers must be dated with the date the first lamp is put into the container.
- When full, contact EHS at 554-3596 or uno.ehs@nebraska.edu for pick-up and disposal.

Mercury-containing Items

Mercury-containing items such as thermostats, barometers, thermometers, certain gauges, and electrical switches can be universal waste. The item must contain elemental mercury. These items can also create a hazardous environment if they break, therefore;

- Immediately complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS [for pick-up and disposal](#).

Batteries (Ni-Cad, Mercuric Oxide, Lithium, Ni-MH, Lead Acid)

- Batteries that would be hazardous waste, such as nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad), mercuric- oxide, and certain lithium batteries, found in many items common to laboratories or offices can be universal waste. These batteries are from such items as electronic equipment, cellular telephones, portable computers, and Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS). Reference Hazardous Material Fact Sheet, [Battery Disposal](#).

Leaking batteries

- Place battery in a bag, complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS for pickup, storage and disposal.

Pesticides

All unused, or waste pesticides can potentially be managed as universal waste.

- Label the pesticide “Used” and store it in secondary containment. Complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS for pickup, and disposal.

Electronic items:

Electronics that would be hazardous waste such as cathode ray tubes or other e-waste that might be found to be hazardous waste can be universal waste. Electronic items are electronic equipment that contains one or more circuit boards or other complex circuitry. Examples of electronic items include laptop computers, telephones, radios, keyboards, and stereos. They also include components and subassemblies or other parts derived from the disassembly of electronic items. Reference Hazardous Materials Fact Sheet, [Computer and Electronic Equipment Disposal](#).

Updated 2/2026