

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FACT SHEET

Unknown Chemical Disposal

Before disposing of laboratory waste, its hazard class must be identified so that it can be disposed of safely and in accordance with regulatory standards. Disposing of unknown chemicals is very expensive since a complete chemical analysis would need to be performed. For this reason, and for safety considerations of everyone working in the laboratory, do not allow containers of unknown chemicals to accumulate. Avoid generating materials of unknown composition by properly labeling bottles and boxes with the contents, its associated hazards, and the date the waste chemical was first added to the container. Inspect the condition of the containers and their labels weekly, documenting the inspections. If a label appears faded or illegible, affix a new label to the bottle. In the event you are unsure of the exact contents of a chemical mixture or you have an unlabeled compound, you can assist Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) in the analysis of the unknown item by examining the container and the contents and making some initial observations. Photocopy or download the Unknown Preliminary Analysis Checklist at the end of this section and complete the form, recording your observations and any unknown history of the material as requested.

Caution: *Wear appropriate protective clothing and work in a hood when opening containers of unknown chemicals. Bear in mind the hazards involved in handling potential pyrophoric and peroxide forming chemicals. Several classes of chemicals can form explosive peroxides on long exposure to air. Unless it is known that the compound does not contain an explosive substance, do not use heroic efforts to open the bottle to examine the contents; it may be necessary to dispose of the bottle as a potentially explosive chemical. If you have questions concerning potential explosives, contact EHS.*

Retain one copy of the completed form and submit a second copy to:
EHS, KH414B or send via email to uno.ehs@nebraska.edu.

Once EHS has received the Unknown Analysis Checklist, it will be reviewed by technical staff and a complete analysis for hazard classification will be performed before waste pickup. If you have not been contacted by EHS personnel nor had your waste evaluated within two weeks, please call (402) 554-3596.

NOTE: *Should it be necessary to do an analysis of the waste to verify chemical content(s), this requirement and costs will be the responsibility of the department generating the waste chemical.*

UNKNOWN PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS CHECKLIST

Please photocopy this checklist and follow the instructions given in the Hazardous Material Fact Sheet, Unknown Chemicals Disposal

PERSONNEL INFORMATION

First & Last Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Department: _____ Building & Room #: _____

Type of work done in the laboratory: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CONTAINER DESCRIPTION

Manufacturer Name and Address: _____

Age of Chemical: _____ Size of Container: _____ Number of Containers: _____

Type of container: ☐ Glass ☐ Metal ☐ Plastic ☐ Paper

Chemical Collection Tag Number: _____ Chemical is: ☐ Used ☐ Un-used

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Chemical Substance: ☐ Solid ☐ Liquid ☐ Gas

Color: _____ pH: _____ Flash Point: _____

Is this material?

Air Reactive?	YES	NO
Water Reactive?	YES	NO
Oxidizer?	YES	NO
Radioactive?	YES	NO
Infectious?	YES	NO
Biological?	YES	NO
Perchloric Acid?	YES	NO
Picric Acid?	YES	NO

Does this material contain?

Cyanides?	YES	NO
Sulfides?	YES	NO
Mercury?	YES	NO
Peroxides?	YES	NO
Asbestos?	YES	NO
Pesticides?	YES	NO
Explosives?	YES	NO
Dioxin/PCB?	YES	NO

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY USE ONLY

Proper Shipping Description: _____

EPA Waste Code(s): _____ Date: _____