WASTE NEWS

A HAZARDOUS WASTE NEWSLETTER

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

A PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

WASTE NEWS IS A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER, WRITTEN, EDITED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY. THE GOAL OF THE NEWSLETTER IS TO SHARE TIMELY AND RELEVANT WASTE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES WITH THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FACULTY, STAFF AND SAFETY SERVICES.

HELPFUL TIPS TO REDUCE HAZARDOUS WASTE IN YOUR LAB

BY JEFF CARTER, HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGER

Stony Brook University's Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) Department exists to promote safety and environmental stewardship through the development and implementation of a variety of environmental, health and safety programs. Your awareness and involvement will help to ensure compliance and the well-being of our campus community. As part of our ongoing efforts to minimize hazardous waste generated on campus, below are some helpful tips for you to consider implementing in your laboratory. All hazardous waste should be disposed of through EH&S - please go to http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/waste/collection.shtml to view the hazardous waste pickup schedule.

- Purchase chemicals in the smallest quantities needed
- If trying out a new procedure, try to obtain the chemicals needed from another laboratory first or purchase small amounts initially
- Date chemical containers when received so that older ones will be used first
- Keep halogenated solvents separate from non halogenated solvents
- Keep nonhazardous chemical wastes separate from hazardous waste
- Avoid experiments that produce wastes that contain combinations of radioactive, biological and/or hazardous chemical waste
- Keep chemical wastes separate from normal trash – once mixed/contaminated, all waste must then be handled as hazardous waste
- Evaluate laboratory procedures to see if less hazardous or nonhazardous reagents could be used
- Avoid the use of reagents containing arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, and/or silver
- Consider the quantity and type of waste produced when purchasing new equipment – is there an alternative that produces less waste?
- Review your procedures regularly (e.g. annually to see if quantities of chemicals and or chemical waste could be reduced)
- When preparing a new protocol, consider the kinds and amounts of waste produced and determine whether they can be reduced or eliminated
- Examine your waste excess chemicals to determine if there are other uses in your laboratory or if neighboring laboratories/departments or non laboratory areas might be able to use them
- Try using detergents and hot water for cleaning of parts and lab equipment instead of solvents
- Scale down experiments producing hazardous waste wherever possible
- In teaching laboratories consider the use of microscale experiments
- In teaching laboratories consider using demonstrations or video presentations as a substitute for some student experiments that generate chemical wastes
- Use pre-weighed or pre-measured reagent packets for introductory teaching laboratories where waste is high
- Include waste management as part of the pre and post laboratory written student experience
- Encourage orderly and tidy behavior in the laboratory