

Guidelines for Flammable Solvent Disposal

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to define requirements for appropriate disposal of flammable solvents.

II. Introduction:

Solvent wastes possessing a flashpoint less than 60°C (140°F) are classified as ignitable hazardous wastes under 40 CFR 261.21. According to Federal and state regulations, all hazardous wastes must be captured, collected, and disposed of through the VAPHS chemical waste disposal program. **No hazardous materials should be poured down the drain in the labs.** The VAPHS Research and Development Office is committed to protecting the environment through strict compliance with the applicable laws and the “Zero Discharge” policy.

III. Disposal Guidelines:

- a. Solvent wastes possessing a flashpoint of less than 60°C (140°F) are classified as characteristic (ignitable) hazardous waste. Contact the GEMS Program Manager (412-822-3197; cell 412-592-9055) to assist in making a waste determination as necessary.
- b. All hazardous chemical wastes must be captured, collected, and disposed of through the VAPHS chemical waste disposal program.
- c. Examples of flammable solvents can include ethanol, methanol, acetonitrile, and aqueous solutions of these solvents.
 1. For example, Western blot transfer buffer that contains 10-20% methanol is considered a flammable hazardous waste and must be collected and disposed through the VAPHS chemical waste disposal program.
 2. Ethanol solutions used in cell staining should be collected and disposed through the VAPHS chemical waste disposal program.
- d. Collect solutions in a glass or plastic container.
 1. Used glass or plastic bottles can be triple-rinsed and used as waste containers. Do not “air out” bottles in the chemical fume hoods.
 2. Remove or destroy the original label of the bottle, to dispel any confusion about contents.
- e. Containers of hazardous chemical wastes must be labeled with the words “Hazardous Waste” and the identity of the chemical constituents along with an indication of the

hazard(s) associated with the contents (e.g., the applicable hazardous waste characteristic(s), a Department of Transportation [DOT] label or placard, an Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] hazard statement or pictogram, or a National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] hazard label). *Please Note: The container must be kept closed except when adding waste.

- f. Once full, contact the GEMS Program Manager (412-822-3197; cell 412-592-9055) to schedule a pick up.

For questions on the VAPHS chemical waste disposal program, contact the GEMS Program Manager (412-822-3197; cell 412-592-9055).