

Spill Cleanup Material, Sharps and Compressed Gas Cylinders

Spill Cleanup Material

All materials (paper towels, absorbent materials, PPE, etc.) used to clean up a chemical or waste spill should be considered to exhibit the same characteristics as would the chemical or waste that was spilled. If the substance spilled was a hazardous chemical or waste, the cleanup materials would be considered a hazardous waste and must be handled as such and disposed of through OEHS.

Sharps

Dispose of all needles, syringes, and razor blades as infectious waste by placing them inside a sharps container. Never reuse sharps containers. Contact the OEHS for sharps disposal.

Mercury Containing Items

Mercury containing items such as thermometers and manometers must be collected for hazardous waste disposal. The mercury in these devices is recycled whenever possible. Broken fluorescent lamps containing mercury are collected in drums and are handled and disposed of as per Universal Waste guidelines.

Compressed Gas Cylinders

Disposal of compressed gas cylinders can cost hundreds of dollars depending upon the nature of the gas. Purchasing compressed gas in a returnable and/or refillable lecture bottle or cylinder could save money. All compressed bottles must be labeled and "EMPTY" must be placed on the bottle when it is empty.

Gas Cylinder Return

It is the responsibility of the user/department to contact the manufacturer or vendor of the cylinder to confirm the policy on returns. Follow the instructions given by the vendor to ship or return the cylinder. Any gas cylinder that is not returnable will require management as a hazardous waste. The chemical gas mixture must be clearly identified on the "hazardous waste" label. The approximate pressure (psi) must also be noted on the label. All hazardous waste cylinders must have caps tightly closed over the valves