

Unknown waste materials must be managed as hazardous waste until testing is performed. Identification of the material falls to the owner of the waste or failing that, the department responsible for the lab generating the waste. Identification can be performed by an analysis within the lab/department to identify the waste, or utilizing the TSDF lab pack chemists to perform this function. **In either case all costs incurred in identification are the responsibility of the lab/department involved.** The amount of unknown waste generated is eliminated by ensuring the hazard communication standard and laboratory close-outs are performed.

If you find “unknown” waste, please follow the below guidelines:

1. Contact OEHS immediately to inform about the existence of the material.
2. Gather as much information as possible about the waste and how it was generated.
3. Contact people who may have information about the material including those who left the university is recommended.
4. Do not move the material from your laboratory or work area. OEHS or the waste contractor will remove the material from your laboratory.

DO NOT

- dump unknown chemicals down the drain
- mix unknown chemicals with any other chemicals for consolidation
- bring unknown chemicals to a regular waste pickup unless instructed by OEHS to do so

Avoid generating unknown hazardous waste by following these basic rules:

1. Label all chemicals and secondary containers the moment it comes to the lab.
2. Do not use abbreviations.
3. Dispose of unwanted and unusable chemicals promptly.

Follow the lab closeout procedure whenever a person leaves the university or changes labs.