

LABORATORY UNWANTED MATERIAL QUICK FACTS

Generation and Storage

North Carolina State University generates large amounts of Chemical Unwanted Material. Various regulatory agencies drive the requirements to which the University must adhere. The four most common violations cited involve Caps, Containment, Control, and Communication of Contents.

Unwanted Material Containers must be:

- **Capped**
 - Kept closed at all times, except when adding material unless an existing safety condition requires venting. If a funnel is in use, the funnel must be removed when not in use. If a fixed, attached funnel is used, it must clamp shut.
 - Proper caps should be used. Parafilm, Corks, Glass stoppers, etc. are not proper caps.
 - Caps should be kept tight. Caps maybe left loose until off-gassing is complete. Contact EHS for vented caps as necessary for wastes that may generate overpressure concerns.
- **Contained**
 - Stored in secondary containment and in such a manner as to prevent spills.
 - Compatible with its contents.
 - Kept clean with no visible residue on the outside of the container and must not be leaking.
 - Do not overfill containers. Leave ten percent of headspace to allow for thermal expansion.
- **Controlled**
 - Stored at or near the point of generation. Waste may not be moved across a hallway or into another room.
 - Stored under the control of the process operator.
 - A maximum of 55 gallons of hazardous waste may be generated in any one area. Contact EHS immediately if this threshold is met or exceeded.
- **Communicate Contents**
 - Acceptable communication includes “Unwanted Material” followed by a descriptor of the contents, and associated hazards. A best management practice is such a label plus a correlating sheet nearby with the exact contents listed in percentages and dates added.
 - “Used Oil” should not be labeled as “Unwanted Material.”

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