

Hazardous Waste Disposal¹

Depending on Assistance Needed, Call:	
DGS – Environmental Health and Safety	202–576–8962
IAQ Contact	
IAQ Coordinator	

Situation Description

At times, it is necessary to dispose of hazardous waste. Below are suggested procedures for the proper disposal of various materials that may produce health hazards.

Procedures

Waste oil—

- Put down absorbent material (i.e., sawdust/ kitty litter) to block oil from drains or sewer lines.
- Call DGS – Environmental Health and Safety. DCPS has a contract in place for pickup and disposal of waste oil, waste oil with water, and antifreeze.

Paint—

- If paint can has one inch or less of liquid, take off lid, let paint dry out, then dispose of can and dry material in dumpster.
- If paint can has more than one inch of liquid, consolidate cans, if necessary, into five-gallon containers with lids (e.g., old paint can), then generate a work order form to request removal of paint waste from your building.

Solvents—

- Leave materials in original containers. Do not mix any solvents.
- Store in safe area until pick-up of material.
- Call DGS – Environmental Health and Safety 202–576–8962.

***Laboratory chemicals* (spill control procedures for flammable acids and bases)—**

- Each laboratory should have access to a spill kit that includes acid and base neutralizers and spill control procedures that should be followed.

¹ This Protocol contains information developed and implemented by the Environmental Health and Safety (ESH) and can be used as a guideline for other District LEAs. Each LEA should review and edit the contents to conform to their procedures and contacts.

- Combustible organic materials (sawdust, excelsior, wood scraps and shavings, paper, rags, or burlap bags) should never be used to absorb or clean up spillage.
- Attend to anyone who may need medical attention. If medical attention is needed contact 9-911, the school nurse, and the DGS – Environmental Health and Safety.
- Notify occupants in the immediate area about the spill.
- Keep students and staff stay away from the spill area.
- If the spill material is flammable, turn off all ignition and heat sources to include magnetic stirrers.
- Avoid breathing vapors of the spilled material.
- Turn on fume hood and open windows, where possible, to increase ventilation.
- Verify that protective apparel is resistant to spill material.
- Review MSDS (chemical data sheet) for cleanup information.
- Confine or contain spill to original spill area.
- Proceed with cleanup measures as instructed in the chemical data sheets.
- Call DGS – Environmental Health and Safety at 202-576-8962.
- Refer to Prohibited Chemical List, Section 6, Appendices.

Unknown substances—

- Leave material alone. Do not disturb.
- Secure area so that school personnel are not exposed to toxic substances.
- Do not wet material or mix anything with it.
- Call DGS – Environmental Health and Safety at 202-576-8962.

Storage

It is important to handle hazardous materials according to the manufactures' guidelines. Wastes generated from hazardous materials should be stored separately from regular waste and disposed in appropriate containers. There is zero tolerance for stock piling hazardous waste or wastes that are unknown in substance and origin. If you question a substance or unknown material call DGS – Environmental Health and Safety at 202-576-8962.