



VCU

Safety and Risk
Management

Guidelines for Hazardous Waste Container Selection

1. **PURPOSE:** Provide container selection guidelines to safely manage hazardous chemical waste.
2. **SCOPE / APPLICABILITY:** Employees working with or disposing of hazardous chemical waste must select proper waste containers to prevent unexpected reactions, prevent accidents and safeguard the environment.
3. **GUIDELINES:** The following provides general information about waste container selection and usage.
 - a. Use containers that are compatible with the waste
 - 1) Do not place corrosive or aqueous wastes in metal containers.
 - 2) Select a container that is compatible with all the properties of the waste stream (including any reaction / by-products) that will be placed in that container.
 - 3) Use separate containers for liquid, solid and gaseous (pressurized) wastes.
 - b. Separate waste types; i.e., hazardous, non-hazardous, medical, and wastes that can be recycled / easily treated.
 - 1) Separation prevents the creation of waste mixtures that are difficult and expensive to treat as well as their disposal.
 - 2) **Caution:** Reactions between incompatible wastes can create dangerous fumes or vapors, cause explosions and fires, or pose other hazards to employee safety and the environment.
 - c. Ensure secondary containment is adequate and appropriate for the waste stream.
 - d. Hazardous waste containers must be properly labeled at all times and kept in an approved Satellite Accumulation Area (reference Chemical Waste Management Program).
4. Contact a Hazardous Waste Technician at 828-1392 if you have questions.