



Hazardous Waste Program Factsheet

Laboratory Clean-Out Procedures

A laboratory clean-out involves the removal of excess amounts of chemicals from laboratories, usually because the lab is being closed down, the lab is moving, or the lab has accumulated a large amount of chemicals that are no longer being used.

Routinely generated hazardous waste is not considered a laboratory cleanout. UCSB's normal disposal procedures and pickup requests must be followed.

Lab Clean-Out procedures:

- 1. Notify EH&S** Due to regulatory issues and space constraints EH&S needs ample time to schedule your anticipated laboratory clean-out. EH&S may need to wait until just before a scheduled hazardous waste shipment (1-4 weeks) before the lab clean-out can begin. Please contact Bruce Carter at ext. 3293 to schedule a lab clean-out.
- 2. EH&S Site Visit** EH&S will assess the quantities and hazards involved with the cleanout. Please be prepared to answer questions about the chemicals and their history. Some chemicals become potentially explosive with age, so extra precautions are taken when conducting a lab clean-out. Extremely large clean-outs or highly reactive chemicals may require the laboratory or department to directly pay for the disposal.
- 3. Prepare Materials for EH&S** EH&S will identify the chemicals that require more information to dispose of. Lab personnel will need to label the containers which may include: attempting to figure out the chemical name of unknown containers, researching the history of unstable chemicals, and deciphering chemical structures that may serve as the only indication of what is in the container. Open containers, beakers, or flasks will need to be placed in sealed containers compatible with the chemical.
- 4. Schedule Clean-Out** EH&S will arrive on a specified date and transport the chemicals to the EH&S facility or package them in the laboratory and ship them directly to a waste disposal facility.