



Universal Waste

Generally, employees/students who generate hazardous waste are required to be trained in the management of these wastes and the proper disposal is coordinated through REHS. Another waste stream at the University is universal waste. The disposal of certain universal waste varies depending on your job function at the University. Universal waste is a classification for “universal” items, which could be more appropriately referred to as “common” waste items. These are common wastes that can have an impact to the environment, if not managed properly. The following are universal wastes managed by the University:

Light bulbs - fluorescent, high intensity discharge, neon, mercury vapor, metal halide, and high-pressure sodium

Batteries (rechargeable) - Lead Acid, NiCad, NiMH and Lithium batteries

Consumer Electronics – Computers, laptops, printers, copiers, tele-facsimiles,

VCRs, stereos, televisions, and telecommunication devices

Mercury Containing Equipment – Thermometers, barometers, thermostats, mercury switches, and blood pressure devices

Last year, Rutgers University managed more than 300,000 pounds of universal waste. Facilities Maintenance Services, Materiel Services, Housing, Dining and Athletics have done an excellent job managing the majority of these wastes. Universal wastes are also generated (typically in smaller quantities) in research laboratories, administrative offices, and health clinics throughout the University.

If you generate light bulbs or rechargeable batteries please check the REHS waste management section related to your job function at the University. If you generate consumer electronics please contact Materiel Services for pick-up and

disposal, and if you generate mercury containing equipment please contact REHS for pick-up and disposal. For more information about the management of universal waste, please contact REHS at (732) 445-2550 or visit our website <http://rehs.rutgers.edu/> and check the waste management section related to your job function at the University.



Electronics staged for Materiel Services Pickup

Select Agent Program

In the wake of September 11, 2001, Congress passed several new laws designed to increase national security and minimize the risk of another terrorist attack on U.S. soil. One of the areas of concern was the potential to use certain biological agents as weapons. Congress identified several of these agents (bacteria, viruses, fungi and toxins) as

likely candidates for this type of use. These agents are now referred to as,

“select agents.”



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regulates the possession, use, and transfer of select agents and toxins that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health and safety. The CDC Select Agent Program oversees these activities and registers all laboratories and other entities in the US that pos-

sess, use, or transfer a select agent or toxin.



Working in a biosafety cabinet

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA) published final rules for the possession, use, and transfer of select agents and toxins (42 C.F.R. Part 73, 7 C.F.R. Part 331, and 9 C.F.R. Part 121) in the Federal Register on March 18, 2005.

Currently, about a dozen University investigators use select agents in their work. They must adhere to additional security measures including, storing the agent under lock and key, maintaining an inventory record of the agent and restricting access to the agent. Most select agents at the University fall under the category of toxin and are used in very small quantities, decreasing their interest to potential terrorists.

If you have questions about the University’s select agent program, please contact Greg Lupinski at (732) 445-2550 or visit the REHS website at http://rehs.rutgers.edu/lbio_sa.htm

