



Safety Gram

March
2019

Unwanted Laboratory Material (ULM): What to Do with It

As a researcher in an academic lab, you are legally responsible for the proper disposal of unwanted lab materials. Failure to dispose of chemicals properly can result in disaster. In the past, unwanted lab materials have reacted with disposal containers, exploded due to pressure build-up, and caused other avoidable accidents.

This safety gram will go over some of the requirements of maintaining and disposing of unwanted laboratory material, as outlined in BYU's Laboratory Management Plan (LMP):

1. Container Labeling

- All labels must use the term "Unwanted Lab Material" instead of "Waste". If your container is labeled as "Waste" you may be subject to a fine.
- The label must provide enough information to alert emergency responders of the contents nature (corrosive, flammable, organic, etc.)

- The container must be clean with no dried chemicals on outside. The lid must also be sealed tightly.

2. Secondary Containment and Storage

- Lab employees and students are required to provide a secondary container for the unwanted materials. Not sure what that is? Refer to the picture below.
- All containers must be closed except when taking from or adding to.



3. Log Sheet and Pickup

- a. Keep a log sheet of when you add ULM. Make sure to include AT LEAST the lab number, date, chemical name, and the amount added.
- b. The container will be picked up 5 to 10 working days from the time the "Unwanted Materials Pickup Request" is submitted.

4. Training

- a. If you generate ULM, you must take the training, which can be found at chem.byu.edu > safety > training > subpart k.
- b. The subpart k training must be taken biannually.

How to Request an Empty Container

Do you need a new container for your unwanted lab material (remember, it's not waste!)? Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you request new containers:

- New containers can be requested from Risk Management. You can request either 2.5 or 5 gallon containers. Follow the below link or find the link under the Safety page at the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department website to request a new container:

<https://risk.byu.edu/environmental/requestcontainer.php>

These containers will have a serial ID and will be tracked until returned for disposal.

- All containers have a 12-month expiration date. After 10 months from the date that you received your container, you will receive an email instructing you to remove the container and will continue to receive emails before the 12-month mark.
- If your container is 90% full before the expiration date, please do not wait until the expiration date to request for removal of the container. Be proactive and request for pickup when container becomes close to full.

How to Request for Container Pickup

Requesting for pickup is an easy process as long as you know where to go. For students to request pick up for their container, they must first be authorized by their supervisor. For supervisors and students, follow the guidelines below to request for pickup and to authorize students:

1. Go to chem.byu.edu.
2. Click on "Safety" in the upper right-hand corner
3. Click on "Unwanted Lab Material Request to Pickup" under the "Unwanted Lab Material" section.
4. Here, authorized students and faculty can schedule waste pickups. For faculty wanting to authorize a student, click on "Manage Employees" in the upper left-hand corner.
5. Enter the students net ID and authorize him or her to schedule waste pickups.