



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
AND SAFETY**

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FACT SHEET
Universal Waste Storage and Disposal for Non-Facilities Areas

The universal waste regulations provide alternate management standards for certain hazardous wastes. Chapter 25 of Title 128 – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations contains the Universal Waste regulations. The following outlines Universal Waste at UNMC and the regulatory requirements for proper storage and disposal. All Non-Facilities personnel should follow this guidance. All Facilities and Information Technology staff who handle universal waste must take Universal Waste Training and follow that guidance.

Mercury-Containing Lamps (UV bulbs)

Lamps and bulbs that would be hazardous waste, such as fluorescent, high-pressure sodium, mercury vapor, and metal halide lamps, are universal waste.

- Store all used mercury-containing lamps in proper storage containers. Sturdy cardboard containers are suitable.
- All storage containers must be labeled “Used Mercury-Containing Lamps.”
- Date all storage containers when adding the first lamp to the container.
- Complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS for pick-up and disposal.

Mercury-containing Items

Mercury-containing items such as thermostats, barometers, thermometers, certain gauges, and electrical switches are a universal waste if they contain elemental mercury. These items can also create a hazardous environment if they break, therefore;

- Immediately complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS for pick-up and disposal.

Batteries (Ni-Cad, Mercuric Oxide, Lithium, Lead Acid)

- Batteries that would be hazardous waste, such as nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad), mercuric-oxide, and certain lithium batteries, found in many items common to laboratories or offices, are a universal waste. These batteries are from such items as electronic equipment, cellular telephones, portable computers, and Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS). Reference Hazardous Material Fact Sheet, [Battery Disposal](#).

Leaking batteries

- Place battery in a bag, complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS for pick-up, storage, and disposal.

Pesticides

Manage all unused or waste pesticides as universal waste.

- Label the pesticide “Used” and store it in secondary containment. Complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS for pick-up and disposal.

Electronic items:

Electronic items that contain heavy metals are hazardous and managed as a universal waste. Electronic items are electronic equipment that contains one or more circuit boards or other complex circuitry. Examples of electronic items include laptop computers, cathode ray tubes, telephones, radios, keyboards, and stereos. They also include components and subassemblies or other parts derived from the disassembly of electronic items. Reference Hazardous Materials Fact Sheet, [Computer, and Electronic Equipment Disposal](#).

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Please call 402.559.6356 or
email unmcehs@unmc.edu with any questions