

# Minimizing Hazardous Waste

Audience: University of Connecticut  
Campus Covered: All  
EHS Contact: Denis Shannon  
Reg. Citations: 40 CFR  
Last Revised: September 2001

---

## What Is Waste Minimization?

Waste minimization is any action that:

- Decreases the amount of hazardous waste generated.
- Reduces the toxicity of the waste generated.

## How Does Waste Minimization Benefit You?

- **Lowers your costs**
- **Reduces health hazards**
- **Reduces long-term liabilities for disposal**
- **Promotes environmental ethics**
- **Prevents pollution**

## Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Tips

Maintain good housekeeping:

- Clearly mark the contents of all containers of hazardous materials
- Keep an up-to-date inventory of all hazardous materials

Analyze all waste generated and ask if it is necessary and how it could be minimized. Substitute less hazardous chemicals for hazardous ones. Look for others in your department who could use your unwanted chemicals. Gear instruments and equipment to generate the least amount of waste possible. Reduce the scale of processes so that less waste is generated. Treat or destroy hazardous by-products as the last step in experiments.

Include source reduction and waste minimization in student and employee training sessions.

Contact the Office of Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) at 6-3613 for additional source reduction and waste minimization tips.