

# Anatomy Lab Chemical Waste Collection and Disposal Guidance

## INTRODUCTION

This guidance applies to the handling and disposing of embalming fluid in the Eastern Washington University (EWU) Anatomy Labs.

## EMBALMING FLUID

Used embalming fluids and preservatives are treated as “chemical” hazardous waste, not biological waste. The following is a list of steps to take to contain the waste:

- Collect embalming fluid (usually mixed with “body” fluids), from cadavers and place it in a 10-gallon metal drum located in the Satellite Waste Accumulation area of the Anatomy lab (Currently located in ISC 214a). Embalming fluid from display samples and specimens may be added to the cadaver waste drum as necessary. Please submit an [EH&S Waste Pickup Request](#) when the drum is near full (Please allow 2 inches of head space for fluid expansion).
- Ensure that there is an appropriately sized, secondary spill containment system in place to guard against drum ruptures or leaks. An example of a secondary spill containment system can be found here: [Spill Containment Pallet](#).
- Ensure that the drum is properly grounded by clipping the grounding wire to metal lip on the top edge of the drum.
- Keep all lids on waste containers tightly closed when not being filled. We can be cited and fined for any open chemical waste containers found during inspections by outside agencies. Please ensure that all waste containers are tightly closed when not in use.
- Do not overfill the metal drum. Leave approximately 2 inches of headspace for fluid expansion and call for a waste pickup once this fill level is reached. The waste pickup requests and forms can be found on the Waste Pickup Request page above.
- Once container is filled, seal the lid tightly, write the date filled on the label and call for a waste pickup.
- Do not overfill the container and clean up any spills promptly.

A spill kit is available in the lab for cleaning up minor spills.

## Labels

The main waste drum will be labeled as follows:

- Hazardous Waste Accumulation Container.
- Toxic/Poison (skull and crossbones).
- Flammable Liquid (flame symbol).
- Chemical with total percent of each chemical. No chemical abbreviations or chemical formulas (See sample below).

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Contact Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) at 359-6455 or 359-2788 or fill out and submit the Waste Pickup Request form located here: [EH&S Waste Pickup Request](#). EH&S will provide a new drum for chemical accumulation when the old drum is switched out.

Remember to date the drum once it has been filled it to within two inches from the top. This starts the 180-day clock for disposal. In other words, EWU has 180 days to dispose of the drum. Once filled, please call for a waste pickup immediately. A filled drum should not remain in your satellite accumulation area for more than three days after being filled.

Please follow this link to print the: [Satellite Inspection Log](#) and fill it on a weekly basis.

**Hazardous Waste Label Example:**

Eastern Washington University  
Call Environmental Health and Safety when full at 359-6496.

<b>Chemical Composition &amp; Associated Hazard</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Cadaver Juice</b>	
Propylene Glycol	17.5
Ethanol	24.5
Formalin	4.5
Phenol	3.5
Water	50
Total	100
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Reactive <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hazardous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ignitable <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidizer    Replace Cap After Filling	
<b>Date Filled</b>	Labeled By
Department	Phone
<b>Building</b>	<b>Room /Lab</b>



Note: All of these labels must be affixed to the Satellite Accumulation Area drum.

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REVISION HISTORY		
Rev	Affected Page	Change Descriptions
0	All	Release 6/2/12
1	All	Changes on first & second page. Added Flammable reference, Changed 20-gal to 10-gal first page. Add flammable symbol and changed waste content second page. 6/18/15
2	All	Multiple updates to fix links reflect current practices. 3/13/23.