All hazardous waste containers in USC laboratories must be appropriately labeled per Cal/EPA requirements. Specific information such as owner/generator, waste type, location, etc. must be recorded onto an EPA-compliant self-adhesive label or wire tag and must be legible.

**How and when do I label my waste containers?**
Label the waste container with an adhesive waste label (see below) or tie tag as soon as the first amount of waste is transferred to it. Record pertinent information on the label or tie tag.

**How long may I accumulate hazardous waste in the lab?**
Hazardous waste may not be accumulated for more than 90 days per Cal/EPA regulations.

**INSTRUCTIONS/KEY for Waste Label**

- **A** Accumulation start date. Record date waste was first placed in the container. NOTE: Container MUST BE removed from the accumulation point within nine months by EH&S.
- **B** Contents. Record the common names of the waste chemicals. DO NOT use chemical formulas or structures.
- **C** Physical state. Check the box for solid, liquid, or gas.
- **D** Hazard category. Check the box(es) to categorize the waste: ignitable (flammable/combustible); corrosive (acidic, basic); toxic; and/or reactive (e.g., oxidizer, unstable, etc.).
- **E** Generator. Record the name of the research group responsible for the contents and oversight of the waste container. Include department name as well.
- **F** Location. Write the name of the location (laboratory room, storage room, etc.) where the waste was generated. NOTE: Transport of waste from one location to another is strictly prohibited.
- **G** Phone. Include a phone number(s) of the laboratory (or individual) responsible for the waste. EH&S needs this information in the event it has questions regarding the hazardous waste.

Responsible parties handling waste must:
- Segregate waste streams and ensure compatibility; wear appropriate PPE; and clean up small spills.
- Ensure containers have a vented cap (e.g., Circumvent™, Nalgene funnel); keep capped when not adding waste.
- Store waste containers in secondary containment that exceeds the collective volume of the containers.

**What I need to know...**

- Remove or deface all information on an old container label.
- Do not commingle incompatible chemicals. Do not commingle solids and liquids.
- DO NOT fill waste containers over 80% capacity. Request a pick-up when containers reach 80% and/or before the three month accumulation limit.
- Request a hazmat pick-up or waste labels at: [http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/node/322](http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/node/322)

**References**
Email hazmat@usc.edu or lab safety@usc.edu for more information.
DTSC: [Hazardous Waste Generator Requirements](http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/node/322)