

# Detroit Public Schools



## Department of Environmental Health & Safety

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Hazardous Waste and Chemical Removal

**Q: How do I dispose of hazardous waste such as oils and lubricants?**

**A:** Waste oils and petroleum lubricants are not classified as hazardous waste by EPA. However, the Detroit Public Schools has chosen to manage these products in an environmentally conscious manner.

For proper disposal, please contact EH&S at 313-578-7150.

**Q: What is considered a chemical waste?**

**A:** A chemical waste is any chemical (e.g., unused, unwanted, spent, expired, etc.) which the generator no longer utilizes or has a need for.

**Q: What are hazardous wastes?**

**A:** Hazardous wastes are any solid, liquid, or contained gaseous materials which are no longer used and, if not handled or disposed of properly, could damage or pollute the land, air, or water. They can also cause injury or death to exposed individuals.

**Q: How are hazardous waste laws enforced?**

**A:** In any given state, EPA or a state hazardous waste agency enforces the hazardous waste laws. EPA encourages states to assume primary responsibility for implementing the hazardous waste program through state adoption, authorization, and implementation of the regulations.

**Q: Is Environmental Health and Safety ultimately responsible for ensuring my compliance?**

**A:** EH & S is responsible for **assisting** in compliance, including notifying schools/sites of changes, helping to implement changes and auditing facilities as needed. Personnel utilizing chemicals are individually responsible for ensuring that chemicals are handled and stored properly and in compliance with federal, state and local regulations.

**Q: What should I do if I have a mercury spill?**

**A:** Remove everyone from the area where cleanup will take place. Contact the Department of EH&S at 313-578-7150. All mercury spills, regardless of quantity, should be treated seriously.

**Q: Where can I find additional information?**

**A:** <http://www.epa.gov/>