



IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T “HERD”



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Chemical Management at Tufts: Less is Better

By Peter Kelly-Joseph

As a leading research university with an expanding research profile and capacity, Tufts institutional research dollars have increased by 80% in the last 10 years. Given Tufts academic strengths in science and engineering, chemicals are essential to research and teaching; and use has increased to support additional research.

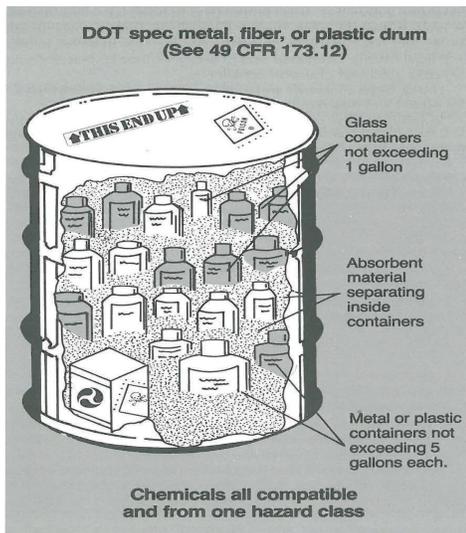
There are challenges to managing chemicals at Tufts that few other academic institutions face due to our three campuses and decentralized science and engineering facilities.

However, reducing the amount of chemicals used in research and teaching when possible is good for everyone at Tufts:

- The total cost of a chemical is not just the purchase price but also the storage cost, disposal cost, and cleanup costs in the event of a spill.
- Researchers often find that they are disposing of partially empty, out of date, unusable chemical leftovers from an over-purchase.
- Purchasing small amounts and smaller containers of chemicals saves money on the initial costs, disposal costs, lowers the risk of accidents and regulatory issues, and furthers Tufts' sustainability goal of reducing waste.

Current disposal costs for 55 gallon lab pack containing approximately 15 gallons of chemicals:

Estimated Cost of Disposal	Size	Quantity	Price
Lab pack for incineration	55 gallons	1	\$295
Environmental Professional			\$28
Transportation & Insurance			\$347
Estimated Project total			\$670



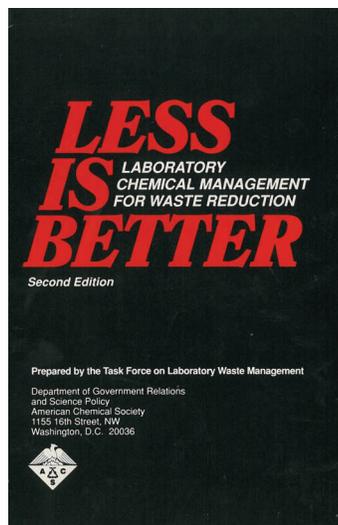
Tufts Environmental Health and Safety (TEHS) is partnering with the Office of Sustainability and Tufts Recycles! to distribute “Less is Better: Laboratory Chemical Management for Waste Reduction” to the approximately 300 teaching and research labs at Tufts.

While “Less is Better” was published in 1996, you might be surprised to learn that the relevance of the information inside has not changed: ordering smaller quantities, effectively tracking current inventory, implementing chemical exchanges, and recycling of unopened or partially used containers are still the most effective ways to reduce waste and increase safety in labs.

There will always be ways to improve the best practices of chemical management and TEHS is proud to assist all departments at Tufts develop procedures to buy less, store less, and dispose of less. Please contact TEHS and we will be happy to help you interpret and implement the advice from “Less is Better” in your lab.

If you have additional ideas on how to reduce waste (chemical and physical) in laboratories, please share them with the Tufts Campus Sustainability Council at <http://bit.ly/xj8BvQ>.

The lab pack is the most appropriate way to ship waste laboratory chemicals, as it allows different materials from the same hazard class to be packaged together.



“Less Is Better strategies, used at every step of planning and executing a laboratory procedure, mirror EPA’s “cradle-to-grave” approach to hazardous waste management.” acs.org