

Standard Operating Procedure



Solvent Rag Safety

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Collection

1. Solvent-soaked rags must be collected in a self-closing, non-leaking metal safety can that is approved by the Temple University Fire Marshal.
2. The use of paper towels is discouraged as these cannot be laundered. Solvent-soaked paper towels will be disposed of as hazardous waste.
3. Plastic liners must not be used as they interfere with the can's lid being able to fully close.
4. At the end of the day, or more often if needed, safety cans must be emptied into metal drums provided by Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS).
5. While transferring material from the safety cans to the metal drums, any material that doesn't belong (paper towels, food wrappers, etc.) must be removed.
6. The lid for the drum must be placed back on the drum.
7. The drums are only for the collection of solvent-soaked rags. Other types of waste must be collected separately, in an appropriate container.

Disposal

1. Drums must be labeled “Solvent soaked rags destined for recycling” and dated when the drum is filled. EHRS will provide labels for the dirty rags.
2. Solvent-soaked rags are picked up when a waste pickup request is submitted to EHRS.
3. The department must complete a chemical waste pickup request and submit this to EHRS. The form is available at: <http://www.temple.edu/ehrs/waste-management/>
4. The department will be responsible for ensuring that the drums are ready for pickup (in a central location, properly labeled, only contain rags, etc.).
5. The rags are picked up by a certified waste vendor.
6. When the dirty rags are picked up, the vendor will replace them with the number of drums of laundered rags listed on the waste pickup request form.
7. The drums of laundered rags will still be labeled “Solvent soaked rags destined for recycling”
8. The department will be responsible for removing this label and affixing a label stating “Laundered rags”.
9. Dirty and laundered rags must be stored in separate areas to avoid confusion. This must be done in addition to the labeling requirements.

Emergency Procedures

1. If the rags overheat carefully open the lid keeping your body and face at a distance and pour in one liter of water. Leave the rags in the self-closing can until cool. Call the University Fire Marshal at 215-852-7794 or Facilities at 1-1385.
2. If the rags produce smoke or fire, close the lid, call Campus Safety at 215-204-1234 and evacuate the building.