

How to Build a Satellite Accumulation Area

Step 1 – Choose a location

Choose a location that is

- Away from the flow of daily traffic,
- Away from work areas,
- Able to be secured, yet accessible to OH&S Support Facility Personnel (formerly known as the Hazardous Materials Facility Personnel), and
- Near an eye wash station and/or shower in case of an emergency (if possible).

Universal Waste Outside Satellite Accumulation Area

If you are creating an outside satellite accumulation area, it must be protected from environmental elements such as the sun, rain, wind, and animals. The satellite accumulation area must also have all of the above features as well.



be
all

Step 2 – Prepare the floor

Before you begin placing any chemical waste on the floor, you should:

- Make sure that the floor is relatively clean (free from chemicals other than regular cleaning supplies), and
- Put down a satellite containment palette that has a base to catch spills.



Step 3 – Prepare the walls and doors

Warning people about chemical and universal waste is essential. In order to do that

- Post signs near the satellite accumulation area and outside on or near the door coming into the area
 - One sign should say “**UNIVERSAL WASTE HOLDING AREA**” or “**CHEMICAL WASTE HOLDING AREA**”, and
 - Another should state the chemical hazards in the area.



Step 3 – Prepare the walls and doors (continued)

- Post instructions for handling the waste especially in case of an emergency.
 - This sheet should also have who to call in case of an emergency. If you don't know, there is a PDF file on this website with the information.
- Post any special instructions people might need to know close by as well.



Step 4 – Moving In

BEFORE you start moving in, make sure that

- Containers larger than 5 gallons or 20 liters have secondary containment in case of a leak.
- Boxes, bottles, and other containers of liquid aren't leaking. If the container **is leaking**, don't try to repair the container with duct tape or anything else! Get another container and move the chemical to the "new" container.



Containers that leak should be replaced immediately – not repaired! The spill should be cleaned up as soon as possible to prevent possible health and safety hazards from fumes.

Step 5 – Storing Universal Waste

- When storing light bulbs as universal waste, the bulbs must be in recycling drums or in the original box. They must not be left lying around loose.



- NEVER** remove the acid from batteries even when storing for pickup. Doing so makes you **PERMANENTLY RESPONSIBLE** for the hazardous waste.



- NEVER** remove the mercury from manometers, thermometers, or other mercury containers. If a mercury-container breaks, clean up the mercury with a mercury spill kit or Mercury Tamer or call OH&S for assistance.



Just a Reminder

Keep All Containers Closed and Prevent Spills

All containers must be closed tight unless you are **actively** adding or removing waste. The EPA checks container lids on a regular basis at UAB. You can help ensure a good report for us by closing the container lid securely after use.

Loose lids cause spills!

