Universal Waste Guidance

Universal waste is a commonly generated waste stream at UAB and includes items such as batteries, fluorescent lamps, ballasts, mercury-containing equipment, and certain aerosol cans. Proper management helps ensure regulatory compliance and protects employees and the environment. Universal waste is regulated under **40 CFR Part 273**. Generators must complete yearly training: **CS056: Handling, Storing, Packing, and Manifesting Universal Waste**.

What are Universal Wastes?
There are four (4) categories of universal waste, which include:

- Lamps, bulbs
- lamp ballasts;
- batteries and
- mercury-containing equipment (i.e. thermometer)











Step 1: Properly Box the Waste

Before requesting a pickup:

- Place batteries in a sturdy container or box that is in good condition.
- Battery terminals **are required** to be taped to prevent short circuits.
- Place fluorescent lamps in approved lamp boxes or other protective containers to prevent breakage.
- Ensure containers remain closed except when adding waste.
- Do not mix different waste streams.









Step 2: Label the Container

Universal waste containers must be clearly labeled with the correct waste description. Call EH&S Support facility at 205.934.37797 for labels. (*** **These label are ONLY for Universal Waste Accumulation Area – Maintenance).**



EPA regulations require containers to be marked to identify the type of universal waste being accumulated.

Step 3: Submit the Manifest Request: Universal Waste Manifest

When completing a waste pickup request (download Universal Waste Manifest from EH&S webpage). Manifest must be type and emailed to chemwasteman@uab.edu:

- Select the correct universal waste category.
- Enter an accurate quantity.
- Describe the contents clearly.
- Verify the container type and condition.
- Submit the manifest once all information has been reviewed to chemwasteman@uab.edu
- Make sure to attach manifest to boxes. Note: Labs do not have to use the label ONLY attach the manifest to the box(es).

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Using damaged boxes.
- Leaving containers open.
- Failing to label containers.
- Mixing universal waste with chemical hazardous waste.
- Submitting incorrect quantities on the pickup request.

NOTE: Box it properly. Label it correctly. Manifest it accurately.