

# Disposal of alcohol based hand sanitizer

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Most hand sanitizing liquids and gels consist of 60% or greater concentrations of ethyl alcohol. Alcohol based hand sanitizing fluids are flammable liquids at room temperature. As a result, any unused or partially used containers of hand sanitizing liquid that are no longer wanted must be disposed of as Hazardous Waste.

Hazardous Waste must be stored according to the following rules:

1. All collection containers must be closed with a proper fitting top, except when being filled or emptied. In this case, metal to comply with fire codes.
2. Containers must be marked with the words "Hazardous Waste" and with other words that identify the contents of the containers; in this case, "Hazardous Waste—Ethanol Cleaner."
3. Containers holding flammable materials must be stored away from oxidizers, sources of ignition and per the Fire Code. Total waste accumulation cannot exceed 10 gallons in the medical center and 30 gallons in all other university property, including all other flammable liquids in the area.
4. To minimize waste disposal, any remaining liquid in a refill bag should be used up for its intended purpose or consolidated into another bag. Bags that can no longer be used should be collected in the Hazardous Waste container at the Satellite Accumulation Area.

To dispose of Hazardous Waste, call the Hazardous Waste Management Unit to schedule a pickup at x52056.

Prior to a waste's being picked up a completed Hazardous Waste Tag must be affixed to each container of Hazardous Waste.

A Hazardous Waste container is considered to be empty if the waste has been removed using common practices typically employed to remove materials from that type of containers (i.e. pumping, pouring, aspirating, etc) and the container contains no more than 1 inch of residue on the bottom, or no more than 3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container.

Containers meeting the legal definition of empty can be recycled or discarded in the regular trash.

**Remember, the best way to minimize the generation of Hazardous Waste from hand sanitizers is to use them up for their intended purpose...sanitizing hands!**