**Universal Waste**

Universal wastes are hazardous per environmental (RCRA) regulations. Because these types of wastes are so common, "universal" so to speak, the EPA allows them to be handled in a way that is not as strict as "normal" hazardous waste. Universal wastes are currently limited to batteries, lamps, mercury containing equipment, some electronic wastes and some pesticides.

The following EPA rules apply to universal waste.

**Containers must be labeled with the words "Universal Waste" and a short description of the contents.**

-Such short descriptions such as "Spent Bulbs, " Used Batteries," "Mercury Containing Equipment" are fine.

- Stickers are available from the EH&S office in the Facilities Management Department (x5683 or 5202).

- If you do not have a sticker or cannot get one right away, then use a sharpie marker or something else to write on the container.

**Containers for must be kept closed unless adding or removing waste.**

- "Closed" means sealed such that if the container tipped over, the contents would not spill.

- The packing boxes that fluorescent bulbs come can be used but they must have any holes taped shut.

**Containers must be dated. Write the date on the container after it is filled and sealed for shipping**

- Records which show where the waste was sent must be kept.

- If you take the waste to a waste disposal facility, ask them for a receipt.

- If a company picks up the waste, they should give you a receipt.

- Send the receipt, or a copy of it, to the EH&S office, Department of Facilities Management.

**The following rules are required by the company that picks up the spent lamps:**

- HID lamps must be put in their own container.

- Compact fluorescent bulbs must be put in their own container.

- U-shaped fluorescent bulbs must be put in their own container.

- Standard 4 foot bulbs must be put in their own container.

- Standard 8 foot bulbs must be put in their own container.

- All other sizes of fluorescent bulbs can be combined into a container.

**University procedures for handling universal waste.**

- Spent bulbs will be accumulated at the Recycling/Waste Management shop on Heiman Street. The supervisor for that shop will arrange for a contractor to pick them up.

- Automotive batteries are disposed of via an exchange program from the vendor.

- Small lead acid batteries are taken to Hester Batteries in Nashville for recycling, the Electrical Shop in Facilities Management does that.

- Other battery types, rechargeable only, are collect by EH&S and are sent via UPS to RBRC (Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation ) for recycling. Or you can order your own boxes from RBRC by calling 877-723-1297 and ship them yourself. Please forward records of shipments to EH&S.

This document can be found on the EH&S website. <http://www.tnstate.edu/VPBF/fmo/Safety/safety.asp>