MANAGEMENT OF LAB CHEMICALS

Proper management of chemicals in labs is essential in assuring a safe work environment for students, staff, faculty, and visitors. Follow the guidelines below to store chemicals safely in your workplace.

Inventory
- Federal, state and local regulations require that the campus maintain chemical inventories on campus

Labeling
- All chemical containers must be clearly labeled with chemical name, manufacturer, major hazard(s), and date received / prepared
- All hazardous waste containers must be clearly labeled with a Hazardous Waste Label

Storage
- Chemicals should be stored according to compatibility and hazard classification
- Storage areas must be clearly labeled
- Cabinets or shelving must be sturdy and secured to the wall, fitted with a barrier or lip at least 1-1/2 inches high to prevent chemicals from falling off
- Laboratories must establish separate storage areas for each of the following: flammable and combustible organic solvents (organic liquids), corrosive inorganic/ organic acids (acetic acid) and bases, dry poisons/ salts/ oxidizers
- When you initially sort your chemicals for storage, cross-reference the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for incompatibilities of each chemical with other chemicals in the lab - see Chemical Storage Segregation Guidelines

Ventilation
- If a chemical storage area is ventilated, the ventilation system must exhaust through a fume hood or be independently connected to the outside of the building. Contact EH&S with questions about ventilation in your chemical storage area

Spills
- Keep absorbent material (diatomaceous earth, kitty litter) available to absorb spills and leaks
- Spill cleanup kits for solvents, acids, mercury, hydrofluoric acid, and other chemicals are available commercially
- Prepare a spill response plan for your lab to control unplanned chemical spills - see Hazardous Material Spill Control

Outdated Chemicals & Chemical Waste
- Must be disposed of by EH&S. A chemical waste disposal list form can be submitted electronically from the EH&S website, or by campus mail

Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information or call EH&S at 827-5528 if you have any questions.