



# UCCS SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

## 1. SAFE STORAGE AND HANDLING OF ABSORBANTS AND SHOP TOWELS

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(For assistance, please contact [Environmental Health & Safety](#))

[Rags, shop towels, and other reusable absorbents](#) that are contaminated with listed hazardous waste or that exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic are considered to be exempt from the provisions of the Colorado hazardous waste regulations **only if they are picked up, cleaned, and delivered back to the customer by a laundering service** which uses a solvent-based dry cleaning process to clean the rags or a water-washing commercial laundry with all appropriate waste water discharge permits from the local municipal waste water treatment plant.<sup>1</sup>

Wastes that are contaminated with one or more listed hazardous wastes or that exhibit any of the characteristics of ignitability, reactivity, corrosivity, or toxicity as defined in the Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations 6 CCR 1007-3 Subpart 261 are considered to be hazardous waste. Contaminated rags and absorbents shall be collected in a non-flammable container in a designated Satellite Accumulation Facility and handled as hazardous waste.

[Kitty litter or other absorbent powders](#) that are used to clean up spilled materials can not be disposed of in the regular trash. If the material cleaned up is a petroleum based product (i.e. car oil, gasoline, etc.), then the used absorbent can be bagged, labeled as “PETROLEUM SPILL DEBRIS” and delivered to the OCSE loading dock area near the hazardous waste storage room. Be sure to contact EHS 719.255.3212 to let them know you are taking waste to OCSE.

Material that is used to clean up other spills, should be bagged and labeled “XXXX SPILL CLEAN-UP MATERIAL” Contact EHS 719.255.3212 for pick-up.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division [Contaminated Shop Towels and Reusable Absorbents Hazardous Waste Compliance Bulletin](#).

Last reviewed by Cynthia Norton on January 18, 2023