



## UCCS SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 54. SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF UNIVERSAL WASTES

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

The University is subject to regulations controlling the disposal of harmful materials into landfills as a commercial (non-residential) user. In addition to regulated hazardous waste, household trash & garbage, the University is responsible for management of regulated waste not classified as hazardous, but which presents a danger to the environment. These "[Universal Wastes](#)" are regulated at a lower level than hazardous waste, with the intent to encourage recycling, rather than placing these materials in landfills or implementing the highly restrictive hazardous waste regulations for their disposal. Both [Federal](#) and [Colorado](#) statutes regulate [Universal Wastes](#).

#### WHAT IS A "[Universal Waste](#)"?

There are many potential types of [Universal Wastes](#), including many products used in facilities maintenance and routine operations.

- [Aerosols and aerosol cans](#) See **AEROSOLS SOP 2**.
- [Batteries](#) (rechargeable and wet cell) See **BATTERIES SOP 4**.
- [Electronics](#) (computers and electronic components containing circuit boards) See **COMPUTERS & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT SOP 16**.
- [Fluorescent and other specialty lamps](#) (other than incandescent lights) See **LAMPS & LIGHT BULBS SOP 34**.
- [Mercury](#) containing devices (thermometers, instruments, thermostats, etc.) See **MERCURY SOP 37**
- Pesticides & herbicides ("biocides") See **HAZARDOUS WASTE SOP 27**.

#### What are "[Special Wastes](#)"

Materials that are highly regulated, but outside of the Universal Waste and Hazardous Waste regulations.

- [Antifreeze](#) See **ANTIFREEZE SOP 58**
- [Asbestos](#) See **ASBESTOS SOP 3**.
- [CFC's](#) (ChloroFluoroCarbons) Freon®-based refrigerants, [Halon®](#) See **CFC'S SOP 8**.
- [PCB's](#) (PolyChlorinatedBiphenyls) Pre-1979 capacitors & light ballasts See **PCB's SOP 43**.

#### What should I do with "[Universal Waste](#)"?

**THESE MATERIALS CANNOT BE DISPOSED IN REGULAR TRASH.** Arrangements for disposal of [Universal Waste](#) (except batteries, biocides and Mercury) must be made with [Facilities Management](#). Refer to the specific **SOP** for more detailed information.

**WHEN IN DOUBT, CONTACT [EH&S](#) OR [FACILITIES MANAGEMENT](#).**

Last reviewed by Cynthia Norton on January 18, 2023