

MERCER UNIVERSITY

FROM: The Environmental, Health and Safety Office (EHSO) / Alan R. Baca / baca_ar@mercer.edu / 478.301.2544

TO: The MERCER Atlanta Campus Community

Greetings Mercer Colleagues,

Please review this important announcement regarding a new Atlanta Campus environmental initiative. The Mercer University Physical Plant Department and the EHSO have initiated a **Universal Waste Program** responding to a formal audit of Mercer University by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**.

UNIVERSAL WASTE PROGRAM

Definition of Universal Waste: Within the EPA regulations governing the safe management of hazardous waste, the EPA developed a streamlined management program for certain hazardous wastes, known as universal wastes:

1. Batteries – All Types, including dry cell
2. Hazardous Waste Lamps – Fluorescent, Neon, Mercury Vapor, High Pressure Sodium, Metal Halide, etc.
(Not the traditional Incandescent Bulb)
3. Mercury-containing devices – thermometers, thermostats, manometers, barometers, gauges, relay switches, etc.
4. Waste pesticides

The EPA Universal Waste Program provides an alternative set of regulations that reduce the regulatory burden by allowing for longer storage of these wastes and reduced recordkeeping requirements for the waste generator.

MERCER UNIVERSITY – UNIVERSAL WASTE PROGRAM

The Physical Plant Department is prepared to accept the following items: (678.547.6354 Work Order Desk)

1. Batteries.

Please prepare a labeled container (labeled "Universal Waste" & "Batteries") to collect the batteries for periodic pickup by the Physical Plant. The correct container would be leak resistant and have a top that can be secured. Plastic is preferred, and used commercial product packaging would work well and is cost efficient for institutional budgets. Please do not use glass, so we can avoid the potential hazards of broken glass.

Contact the EHSO for ideas, if needed.

2. Hazardous Waste Lamps.

In most cases, the Physical Plant would change light bulbs in university facilities & secure the spent lamps. However, under special circumstances, university employees may generate spent lamps. Please secure the lamp in a box with packing materials (paper, plastic air pillows, packing peanuts, etc.) to prevent breakage. Also, label the box "Universal Waste" & the type of lamp.

The EHSO is prepared to assist departments in properly disposing of the following items:

1. Mercury-containing devices.

Contact the EHSO immediately upon determining you are in possession of a mercury-containing device that is no longer in use. Secure the item in a leak proof container which is properly labeled "Universal Waste" & "Mercury-containing device".

2. Waste pesticides.

Contact the EHSO if you have a waste pesticide. Maintain the commercial label & store the item in an upright position. Place in secondary leak proof containment if the packaging appears to be deteriorating.

****NEW CATEGORY OF "HAZARDOUS WASTE" FOR THE MERCER COMMUNITY** (Aerosol Spray Can Products)**

In addition to the Universal Waste Program, the EPA Audit of Mercer University identified campus-wide use of aerosol spray can products as a regulatory issue that Mercer must address with a formal hazardous waste management program.

< All aerosol spray can products are considered regulated hazardous waste by EPA regulations. >

If your department generates aerosol spray can waste, Mercer must capture these items in a leak proof labeled container and arrange for delivery to the Physical Plant Department. (678.547.6354 Work Order Desk)

Contact the EHSO to discuss your department's preparations for the aerosol waste management program, if needed.

Contact the EHSO with all your questions about Mercer's environmental compliance programs.

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Please circulate this document within your office to reduce the amount of paper needed for this notice.

This document is available on the EHSO Website @: <http://www.mercer.edu/hso/Environmental%20Compliance.htm>