



# Universal Waste Quick Guide

## Definition of Universal Waste

Universal wastes are wastes that meet the regulatory definition of hazardous waste but are managed under special, tailored regulations. Universal waste includes batteries (lithium, NiCad, and lead acid), pesticides, mercury-containing equipment, lamps (bulbs), aerosol cans, photographic solutions, oil, and oil-based finishes.

## Generating and Storing Universal Waste

When generating universal waste, follow the following guidelines that make CMU compliant with environmental regulations:

- Storing all universal waste in containers that are:
  - Compatible with the waste
  - Leak proof
  - Closable
  - Labeled with a universal waste label, shown to the right
- To request universal waste labels, please place an online ticket

UNIVERSAL WASTE	
Check:	Contact Carnegie Mellon EH&S for collection
	Lamps
X	Batteries
	Mercury Containing Devices
	Pesticides
Accumulation Start Date: 1/1/2023	
WASTE CONTAINERS MUST BE CLOSED EXCEPT WHEN ADDING OR REMOVING WASTE.	

*Universal waste label*

## Battery Collection

Universal waste regulations only apply to NiCad, lead acid, button cell, and lithium-ion batteries.

- Although alkaline batteries are not regulated for disposal, EHS will pick up these if they are in bulk. If they are not in bulk, please dispose of them at any FMCS collection kiosk.
  - To set up a bulk alkaline battery collection in your area, please email [safety@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:safety@andrew.cmu.edu).

## Removal of Universal Waste

Universal waste can only be stored for 6 months. After the 6-month time limit is reached, please place an online request for EHS removal of the waste.

Questions?  
Email [safety@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:safety@andrew.cmu.edu)