DAWG TRACKS SAFETY NEWSLETTER

MS Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station
MSU Extension Service

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

I hope faculty and staff are cleaning out some items that are no longer being used since the recent announcement by MSU's Environmental Health & Safety department that there will no longer be a charge to departments for most hazardous waste disposals. It is often liquid chemicals from labs or partially used agriculture jugs from farm storage that come to mind for hazardous waste disposal. While this is true, hazardous waste has characteristics that are ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic. There are also other items that need disposal such as paint, light bulbs, batteries, and tires that also have special requirements for proper disposal.

The big question is, "What should I do with these *other items*?". Listed below is each answer by product.

PAINT

There are 2 types that must be kept separate & processed through the MSU-EHS dept.

1. Oil-based paint is considered hazardous waste. They have identifying labels as *oil-based* or may also have the wording *alkyd*, *stain*, *varnish*, or any paint where cleanup procedures specify use of solvents/mineral spirits.
2. Water-based paint is not hazardous waste but still considered regulated. They have identifying labels as *latex, acrylic, low VOC* (volatile organic compounds), or cleanup procedures with water.

Aerosol paint cans should be used up - paint something! Once they will no longer spray & all the propellant is gone, these cans can be put into the regular trash.

LIGHT BULBS

Such as fluorescent, high intensity discharge, neon, mercury vapor, high pressure sodium, and metal halide lamps are considered universal waste. Fluorescent bulbs with green tips or green writing have lower mercury content but are still regulated. Collect bulbs in a box that is labeled and taped close; this is required & also keeps any potentially broken glass inside from cutting someone. Boxes can be disposed through EHS or taken to the Gast building for disposal through Facilities Management supply room.

BATTERIES

Sealed cell batteries such as nickel-cadmium, alkaline, lithium ion, nickel metal hydride, and lead acid (batteries from power tools, computers, cell phones, radios, and emergency lights) must be collected for recycling through EHS or taken to the Gast building for disposal through Facilities Management supply room and should not be disposed as regular trash.

TIRES

Tires should not be put in regular trash; simply request that the store keep the old when replacing them with new ones at the repair shop, or they are often accepted at your local county landfill (call them directly for specific guidelines).

Local for main campus, Golden Triangle Landfill (2505 Old West Point Rd. Starkville) will take 25 tires at a time, per month, from individuals. But call first (662-324-7566 ext "scales") to be sure they are accepting that day.

Sources:

https://www.ehs.msstate.edu/sites/www.ehs.msstate.edu/files/2024-01/Hazardous%20Waste%20Manual%202024.pdf

https://www.epa.gov/hw/universal-waste#regs

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