

Minimizing Hazardous Waste Generation

What is waste minimization?

Waste minimization is any action that decreases the amount of hazardous waste generated or reduces the toxicity of the waste generated in your work area.

What are the benefits of waste minimization?

Waste minimization benefits you, your colleagues, and the environment by:

- Reducing health hazards
- Preventing pollution
- Promoting environmental awareness
- Lowering waste disposal costs
- Reducing long-term liability for disposal

These tips can help minimize waste generation:

- Maintain good housekeeping
- Clearly mark the contents of all containers of hazardous materials
- Keep an up-to-date inventory of all hazardous materials
- Purchase only the amount of material that is needed
- Substitute less hazardous chemicals for hazardous ones
- Look for others in your department who could use your unwanted chemicals
- Set up instruments and equipment to generate the least amount of waste possible
- Reduce the scale of the experiment so that less waste is generated
- Include waste minimization in student and employee training sessions

Contact the Environmental Health and Safety Department at EHS@wpi.edu for more information.