

## Fact-sheet - How to store hazardous waste on-site?



### What is the objective?

The objective is to make sure the hazardous<sup>1</sup> wastes are temporarily stored in good conditions in order to:

- Avoid any risk of soil and groundwater contamination;
- Avoid non-hazardous wastes to become hazardous;
- Reduce the workers exposure to hazardous waste.



### How to achieve this objective?

**Step 1: Identify** the hazardous waste types in your factory and evaluate the amount of hazardous waste that you will have to temporary store on-site before the collection by a waste contractor.

**Step 2: Designate** a shed/room/building big enough to store the hazardous wastes according to the estimated volume as per step 1. This designated area has to be exclusively used for hazardous wastes and should be away from the production sections (see step 5). Don't store non-hazardous waste in the same area to avoid the contamination of this waste.

**Step 3: Segregate** the hazardous wastes in different sections in the designated area or in different designated smaller areas in the factory. For example: there should be a section for empty chemical drums, a section for dyes containers, a section for fluorescent tube lights, a section for medical waste, etc. See picture 1 below.

**Step 4: Ensure** there is a hard-surfaced floor in the area to avoid any risk of hazardous substance contact with the soil and make sure the roof is in good conditions to prevent rainwater ingress.

**Step 5: Restrict the access** of this dedicated area(s) for hazardous waste to make sure only authorized workers to handle hazardous wastes can enter in this/these area(s) so you minimize the workers exposure to hazardous wastes.

**Step 6: Wash the empty chemical drums** before temporary storage to remove the chemical residues (Except if there is a legal obligation to let only authorized contractors decontaminate the empty chemical drums); designate an area to wash these drums and make sure the wastewater is directed to the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP).

**Step 7: Label** the hazardous waste with hazardous characteristics for each type of waste.



Picture 1: dedicated shed for hazardous waste with different sections for different waste types. The storage area is covered to prevent rainwater ingress. The access to each section is restricted.



Picture 2: designated area to wash the empty chemical drums to remove the residues left inside these drums. The wastewater from the area to wash the empty drums is directly discharged into the receiving tank of the effluent treatment plant (see blue arrow).



**Avoid** creating hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste (e.g. fabric leftovers used in the chemical store to clean-up the chemical spills; these non-hazardous fabric waste pieces become hazardous after the contact with the spilled chemical).

<sup>1</sup> Hazardous waste: waste that because of its quantity, concentration, persistence or physical, chemical or biological characteristics may cause or significantly pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed.

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**Common non-compliances****No hard-surfaced floor in the empty chemical drums storage area**

There is no hard-surfaced floor in the empty chemical drums storage area so chemical residues might contaminate the soil and the groundwater:

**Holes in the roof of the empty chemical drums storage area**

The roof of the waste storage area is not kept in good conditions: holes were found which means in case of rain, water will leak on the hazardous waste inside the area:

**Improper sludge temporary storage conditions**

The factory has not a dedicated and restricted area for the dried sludge bags; the bags are kept directly in contact with the soil and the rainwater infiltration is not prevented:

**Waste scattered around the factory and outside the factory boundaries:**



## Good practices



Pictures showing proper waste storage conditions. On the two pictures on the left, the hazardous waste is stored in a dedicated area, under a roof, the floor is hard-surfaced and the area is kept closed. On the picture on the right, the dry sludge from the Effluent Treatment Plant is kept in closed bags, under a roof and the floor is hard-surfaced to avoid any contact with the soil.