



University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

Environmental Health and Safety Department

Guidance Note

April 2007

Moving Chemicals On-Campus

HWG-032

This information is for your use and as a way of providing consistent information. There is no response required.

Moving Chemicals On-Campus

If your laboratory is moving to another on-campus location, there may be significant numbers of chemical containers that need to be moved. Laboratory personnel may move chemicals within the UCDHSC campus property as long as reasonable steps have been taken to minimize the potential for spills or incompatible mixing of the chemicals. Most research chemicals cannot be moved on public roads because many are classified as Department of Transportation (DOT) hazardous materials, therefore special shipping containers, labels, and shipping documents are required along with specialized DOT training.

Prior to moving large stocks of chemicals from your laboratory the following should be considered:

1. Dispose of all expired or outdated chemicals through Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) by filling out a chemical waste disposal form, or for large numbers of chemical containers (25 or greater) call EH&S to set up an appointment to remove them at 303 315-5661 or 303 724-0127. If you have chemicals that are in good condition but are no longer needed, attempt to recycle them to other laboratories within your department.
2. Do not attempt to move outdated ethers or other potentially unstable/reactive chemical compounds. If you have chemicals that are stored in corroded containers or if the container is missing the lid, they should not be moved until the lid or container has been replaced.
3. EH&S will provide large plastic tubs upon request (303 315-5661 or 303 724-0127) to be used for secondary containment to safely transport your chemicals to your new laboratory. Individual chemical containers must always be placed in a secondary plastic pail when transporting them outside of your laboratory.
4. Transport chemicals inside the plastic tubs on top of a hand-pushed flat bed cart. It may be possible to borrow a flat bed cart from Building Services
5. Become familiar with the "[Chemical Storage](#)" Guidance Note.
6. Do not place incompatible chemicals together in the same tub during movement, in order to prevent unwanted chemical reactions in the event of leaks or spills. Examples of incompatible chemicals include: acids/bases, oxidizers/organic solvents, acids/cyanides, acids/sulfides, aqueous materials/water-reactive materials, etc.
7. Do not transport hazardous chemicals off-campus. Many research chemicals are classified by DOT as hazardous materials and specific packaging and shipping documents are required by law. Please see the "[Shipping Chemicals](#)" Compliance Note.

8. If you have any chemical segregation questions or moving concerns please call the UCDHSC Hazardous Waste Manager at 303 724-0294 or the Hazardous Waste Specialists (303 315-5661 or 303 724-0127) for assistance.