

# University of Oregon Universal Waste Activities Guide

Some items removed during construction or renovation projects must be handled in specific ways to meet Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ORDEQ) regulations. These items; rechargeable batteries, mercury-containing switches, used bulbs (fluorescent, CFL, HID etc.), and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) containing light ballasts, must be carefully stored to prevent breakage or release of toxic constituents to the environment. Improper management is the leading cause of Universal Waste violations and contractors may be liable for violations\*.

## *Requirements for Universal Waste Bulbs:*

- 1) Store used bulbs and lamps in sealable boxes or tubes.
- 2) Tape the boxes closed when full or done for the day.
- 3) Place the boxes on the ground where they will not be damaged or possibly fall over. (Figure 1)
- 4) Enter accumulation date or place a completed “Universal Waste” (Figure 3) Sticker on the box.  
***Be sure to fill out the accumulation date on the sticker.***

Accumulation Date: The date that material is first added to a container.

Note: If sticker unavailable, write on the boxes “Used Lamps” and add an accumulation date.

## *PCB Ballasts:*

- 1) Always look for the “no PCB” label (Figure 2). If not present treat as a PCB containing product.
- 2) Remove and store PCB ballasts away from any other material that may be destined for metal recycling processes. Store PCB Ballasts sealed, leak proof metal drums or containers.
- 3) Label the container with a completed PCB sticker (Figure 2) and a Universal Waste sticker.

## *Recyclable Batteries (Lithium, Nickel Cadmium/Metal Hydride (NiCad/NiMH), Lead Acid):*

- 1) Cover any battery connection with tape to prevent short circuiting.
- 2) Collect batteries where they will not be damaged.

Note: Alkaline batteries may be disposed of a regular trash.

To pick up 4’ or 8’ lamp boxes or drop off full Containers contact:

**EHS Hazardous Waste Lines:(541) 346-2348 or 9299 / [safety@uoregon.edu](mailto:safety@uoregon.edu)**

**Currently Scheduled Times: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month 1-3pm.**

**At Conex #12, dirt road behind steam plant past recycling near RR racks.**

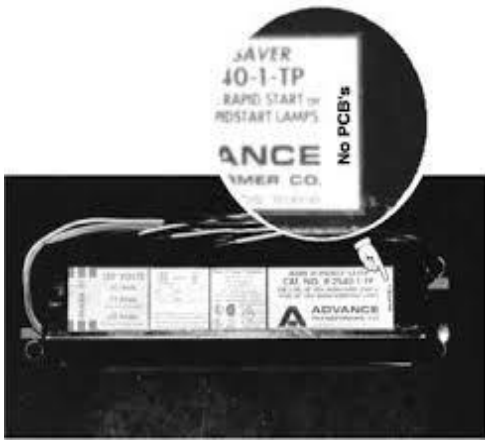
\*<https://yosemite.epa.gov/osw/rcra.nsf/ea6e50dc6214725285256bf00063269d/97a159fcac82e72785256f8100550a5a!OpenDocument>

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The left is an example of improper handling of Universal waste. The bulbs are not boxed and not protected from breakage. Boxes must be labeled/dated, in good condition and sealed.

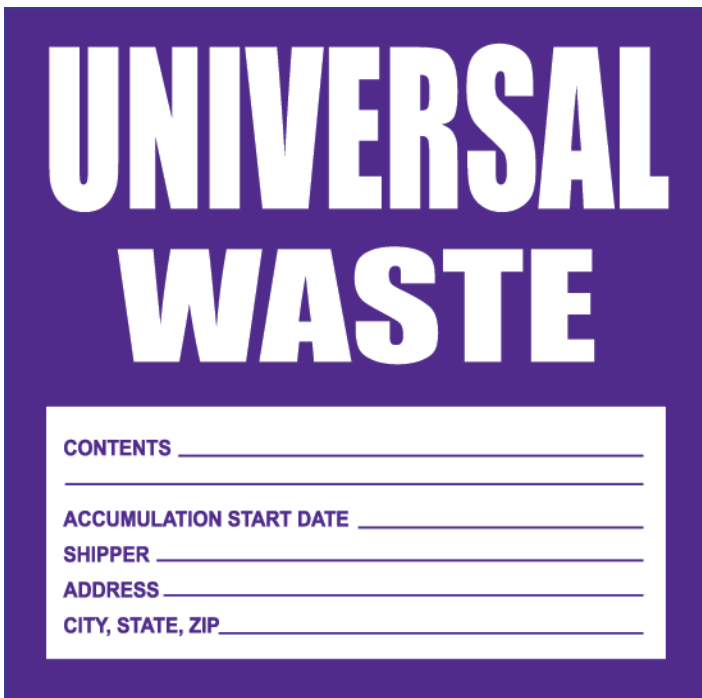
←Bad    Figure 1    Good→



←Always look for the no PCB's marking on old magnetic ballasts.

If not found, it must be treated as PCB containing and the container labeled. →

Figure 2



Universal Waste Stickers, if not designed onto the containers, must be used to identify the contents of the container. Note the “accumulation start date” area, write in the date material was first added to the container

Figure 3

Request Universal Waste labels from EHS: (541) 346-2348