



VEHS HAZARDOUS WASTE BILLING SYSTEM

I've heard that there is a new billing system for hazardous waste. Is that true and when does it begin?

Yes, it is true. The new billing system began on July 1, 2003.

Will my lab receive a direct bill from VEHS for the waste we generate?

No. VEHS will only be sending bills to VUMC, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Plant Operations administration centers. The cost of hazardous waste will be funded centrally as part of the infrastructure for Vanderbilt's multiple missions.

What is the reason for the change?

Previously, there was no correlation between the amounts of waste a school generated and how much funding they provided to manage and dispose of that waste. The amount and costs of waste disposal also fluctuated greatly. The new system was established to solve both of those problems and will bill to appropriate administrative centers based on the percent of waste, and waste costs, they generated.

Should I change how I manage or dispose of my waste as a result of this billing system?

No. Labs should always try to minimize the amount of chemical waste generated whenever possible by substituting non-hazardous materials, performing micro-scale experiments, and managing their inventory. However, once chemical waste is generated, it must be collected and submitted to VEHS for proper disposal. Improper disposal of waste (such as pouring it down sink drains) can result in severe personal fines and jail time from local, State, and Federal environmental authorities.