

# Lab Waste Reduction

## Produce less waste



**Reduce** scale of experiments to the minimum necessary size.

**Reuse** where safe to do so, including washable labware. Ensure appropriate decontamination and cleaning.

The UQ Science Store reuses old chemical bottles. If you work within a non-OGTR or Quarantine Certified lab, empty chemical containers can be returned for reuse (predominantly plastic and glass bottles 2.5 and 4 litres). Contact UQ Science Store for more information at [uqsciencestore@uq.edu.au](mailto:uqsciencestore@uq.edu.au).

**Avoid** wasting lab supplies by ordering exactly how much you need, when you need it. This includes chemical sharing.

**Prevent** chemical leaks with appropriate containers from the UQ Science Store.

**Minimise** use of toxic chemicals by replacing them with greener alternatives. My Green Lab has developed a resource for choosing environmental substitutes [mygreenlab.org/greenchemistry.html](http://mygreenlab.org/greenchemistry.html).

## Ensure eligible waste gets recycled

### Recycling within a non-OGTR Lab:

Set up a convenient recycling area outside the lab. Place the Laboratory Recycling Poster next to the bins to guide lab personnel. Recyclable lab waste includes clean and

uncontaminated\* materials, such as cardboard, paper, plastic containers, and plastic & glass bottles unable to be reused by the UQ Science Store (labels defaced, rinsed).

Recycling in an OGTR or Quarantine Certified Lab:

Set up a waste segregation station outside the lab. Outer packaging materials that have not entered the lab, and are clean and uncontaminated\*, can be recycled.

## Minimise the generation of chemical waste

- Only order what you need.
- A chemical inventory avoids unnecessary orders and can facilitate chemical sharing.
- Adjust experimental design to minimise chemical waste generated.
- Label all chemical containers to minimise waste further on.
- Share excess and unexpired chemicals with other groups.

\*Contaminated items are items that have been exposed, or potentially exposed, to chemical, biological and other hazardous material in a laboratory space. If you are not sure whether a bottle has contained a hazardous substance, DO NOT place it in the general waste or recycling bin.

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