

Appliances and Equipment that Contain Hazardous Materials

Before moving or submitting a moving request to have your surplus equipment taken away, it is important for the equipment to be assessed and made safe to transport to the department of Property Management.

Some equipment and appliances contain chemical products that are safe for transport. Examples would be Freon or oil in a standard refrigerator or freezer. These are sealed and secured for shipment by the manufacturer of the appliance or equipment.

Other items are typically added or removed by the equipment users and must therefore be removed by the equipment user before the equipment can be moved to the Property Management Department. These items would include mercury thermometers, oil or fluids in unsealed tanks like a solvent bath, radioactive materials, biohazardous materials, and chemicals including pesticides, etc.

If the property you want moved contains or previously contained any oil or fluid reservoirs, mercury gauges, biohazards, pesticides, radioactive materials, or x-ray tubes, then your department must drain, clean, or otherwise remove the hazard before submitting a moving request or delivering this type of equipment to the Property Management Department. The Environmental Health & Safety Department (EHS) is available for questions at (530) 898-5126. Any of the following labels related to your equipment might indicate a need to look further:



Biohazards: These are sometimes found in biological labs, medical centers, and anywhere that human or animal specimens are handled or stored. Freezers, refrigerators, and other equipment must be sanitized before leaving your work area. Once sanitized and biohazards are no longer present, then any biohazard label or signage on the equipment must be removed.

Radioactive Materials or X-ray Producing Devices: These are sometimes found in certain research areas or analytical lab settings. Contact EHS for guidance on how to arrange for disposal of this type of equipment.

Chemicals and Pesticides: Equipment that previously contained or stored pesticides should be cleaned thoroughly before requesting moving services. Note: Unwanted containers of pesticides or other chemical products should not be sent to the Property Management Department, but must be managed as a hazardous waste and disposed of through EHS.

Fluid Reservoirs and Mercury Gauge: These can be found in a wide variety of equipment, especially older equipment. If the fluid is a required part of the working equipment and it is fully sealed and leak-proof, it can go to Property Management (for example, Freon in a refrigerator). However, if the fluid is not sealed (for example, mercury in a manometer or barometer) or not packaged safely (mercury in a glass thermometer), then that fluid (typically oil, solvents, or mercury) must be removed and managed as a hazardous waste for disposal through EHS.

Contact EHS if you have questions on any of these topics. This process is designed to ensure the safety of all personnel who handle or work around the equipment once it has left the original user's area. EHS must evaluate and approve your equipment before it will be picked up by the Moving Crew or received by Property Management staff.