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## *Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines - Chemical Products*

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With the fiscal year coming to a close, the Sustainable Procurement Subcommittee is reaching out to departments that order large quantities of chemical products to remind and encourage them to consider sustainability when making purchases. Specifically, requestors are encouraged to avoid buying in bulk with chemical products, especially those with expiration dates or short shelf lives. Unwanted or unused chemical products are costly to dispose of and are a waste of resources on multiple levels. With that in mind, please consider these suggestions:

- Purchase only what you're certain to use in the immediately foreseeable future.
- Pay special attention to chemical products that have expiration dates or limited shelf life.
- If vendor supply is stable, consider buying only what will be used in the next 2-3 months.
- Never buy more than a year's worth of chemical product, even if it seems to be a great deal!
  - Doing so increases the risk and liability of a chemical exposure if a leak / spill occurs.
  - Doing so reduces your working space because it is used to store product.
  - Doing so can lead to waste if the need for the chemical product change before it is used.
- Unwanted or expired chemical products lead to unnecessary environmental costs and financially expensive hazardous waste disposal costs.



Waste, waste, waste - containers of hazardous waste being packaged for shipping