

Chemical Safety

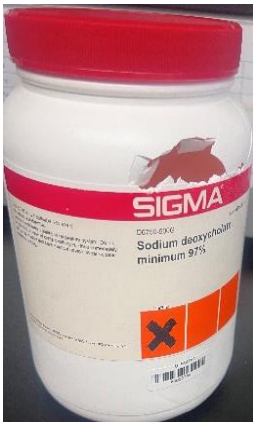


Incident 1:

An old glass bottle of Glyoxal (a hazardous chemical) was found broken in a fridge during chemical inventory.

Due to the age of the chemical, it was likely the bottle cracked during polymerization over time.

Extreme caution and hours of time were spent to ensure proper and safe clean up.



Incident 2:

A plastic bottle of chemical became brittle with age and broke during routine handling causing a chemical exposure.

What Can be Done to Prevent These Types of Incidents?

- ★ Review and take stock of chemical inventory on a regular basis.
- ★ Dispose of all compromised containers or legacy chemicals that are no longer in use, or those that may become more hazardous over time.

WHMIS Labelling Requirements

- When conducting an inventory, chemicals purchased prior to 2015 must have workplace labels printed and affixed manually by the Health & Safety WHMIS Coordinator. Supplier labels are **not** WHMIS compliant (contain signal word, pictograms, and hazard/precautionary statements).
- Due to the presence of numerous old, unused, and legacy chemicals in the area where Incident 1 occurred, the Health & Safety WHMIS Coordinator had to dedicate approximately two months time to apply the necessary labels to bring these products to compliance.
- Decanted product containers also require proper WHMIS labelling.

Cost



- § The University of Regina current contract with **GFL Environmental Inc.** for hazardous waste disposal will expire this summer; the cost for disposing of chemicals will increase dramatically.
- § Take this opportunity to review chemical inventories and dispose of unnecessary and legacy chemicals **as soon as possible**.
- § Ensure all unlabelled chemicals are identified prior to disposal. Disposing of unknown substances is exorbitantly expensive!

If you are unsure of the proper disposal method to discard hazardous chemicals, and/or would like to discuss ordering safer options please contact Health & Safety. We would love to help!