

## Unknown Waste Management

### Tips to avoid occurrence of unknown wastes

- Employee Training  
Mystery containers of unknown waste are less likely to turn up when all employees know the common regulated materials and waste that they may expect to encounter on their job or in their work area, and follow proper container labeling and storage.
- [Container Labeling](#)
  - Properly labeling waste collection containers so you don't forget what's in them.
  - Provide employees with pre-labeled containers for waste collection.
- [Container Storage](#)
  - Store unknown waste in your [hazardous waste storage](#) area and manage it as if it is hazardous until it has been proven otherwise. Assume it is also incompatible with other wastes in the storage area, maintaining an appropriate separation distance from other containers.
  - Containerize the waste in a sturdy, leak-proof, sealed container.
  - Secure container lid.
  - Label container "Unknown" and/or "Under Evaluation".
  - Document the date of discovery, how the waste is being managed, waste sampling procedure and results and any other pertinent information.
  - Doing a little research on your own to identify the waste may save money on sample testing and disposal.
  - [Contact the Office of Environmental Services for waste evaluation.](#)