

The Harker School

Green Business Waste Minimization Policy

The Harker School's Hazardous Waste Minimization Policy supports the goal of reducing the amount and toxicity of waste generated through school activities. Waste minimization helps to decrease health and environmental threats to humans and the earth's ecosystems. The benefits in cost savings and the creation of safer working and learning conditions for faculty, staff, and students are significant benefits as well.

As part of our daily activities at The Harker School, we come across chemicals that contain hazardous properties in administrative offices, classrooms, playing fields, public gathering spaces and, of course, restrooms. The products in use help maintain campus cleanliness, plant and lawn health, sanitary dining facilities, efficient building and grounds equipment, and are used for some instructional purposes, like art, science, and performing arts activities. This Waste Minimization Plan presents strategies that can be used by Harker personnel to reduce the amount and toxicity of wastes created.

Changing practices and processes that result in the generation of hazardous waste is the most effective method for reducing or eliminating that waste. It can be accomplished through effective purchasing, chemical substitution, conducting experiments at the microscale, and good housekeeping by all. Below are some suggestions for reducing hazardous waste generated in your area at school.

Minimization Strategies

- Share supplies through centralized storage to prevent over-stocking.
- Order only the quantity of products that you need for a particular project or timeframe.
- Use oldest products first to prevent supplies from becoming outdated.
- Handle chemical products carefully to prevent spill clean-up waste.
- Do not mix non-hazardous waste with hazardous waste: when mixed with hazardous waste, non-hazardous products only increase the volume of the hazard.
- Keep chemical inventories current with periodic review, and submit new Safety Data Sheets to Harker's hazmat manager to add to our searchable database.
- Substitute non-hazardous or less hazardous materials whenever possible.
- Check the Green Alternative Wizard developed by MIT for alternative products at www.mygreenlab.org/green-alternatives-wizard.html.
- When hazardous waste generation is unavoidable, comply with Harker's strict chemical disposal procedures in order to prevent injury, minimize environmental health hazards, and meet regulatory requirements. Refer to our Chemical Waste Disposal Guidelines in the Resources tab of our portal.