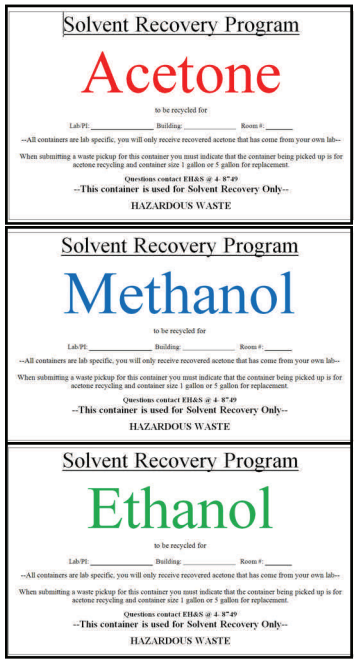
What can be recycled?



Do:

- Collect solvents from glass washing.
- Place a chemical waste pick-up request when containers are approaching full.

Do **Not**:

- Collect solvents other than the one designated on the collection container.
- Collect heavily contaminated solvents. Acids, bases, trace metals and other contaminates may damage the recycler
- Leave collection containers open or unlabeled.

Program History

Solvent recycling began in 2001 at the Medical Center when EH&S partnered with the Department of Pathology to recycle xylene and ethanol. In 2008 EH&S began a pilot program at Morningside to determine the efficacy of recycling spent acetone from laboratory glass washing activities for reuse. EH&S partnered with the Department of Chemistry and now recycles nearly 1000 gallons of solvent each year at Morningside.

The program has expanded to include both methanol and ethanol, and now includes laboratories in Chemistry, APAM, Biology and Engineering.

The success of the program has resulted in a significant cost savings in the purchase of commercial acetone, methanol and ethanol. In addition, there have been savings to the environment by diverting waste solvents from being incinerated.

EH&S is committed to the success of this program and looks forward to continuing the partnership with lab groups for the foreseeable future and beyond.

Printed on recycled paper

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Solvent Recycling

at Morningside

Environmental Health & Safety

VISION STATEMENT

We provide expert guidance and timely service to the University Community through our commitment to health and safety. Employing best practices and collaboration, and by building long term relationships, we promote a productive and safety conscious work environment.

Environmental Health & Safety
Morningside Campus: 212-845-8749
Columbia University Medical Center: 212-305-6780
WWW.EHS.COLUMBIA.EDU

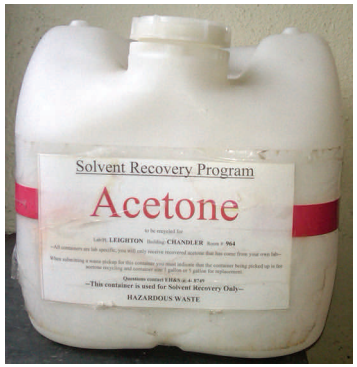
How does it work?

- Laboratories collect solvents from glass washing operations in 5-gallon color coded Solvent Recovery containers provided by EH&S.
- When containers are full, laboratories submit an online chemical waste pick-up request.
- EH&S picks up and recycles the solvents free of charge to the laboratory.
- Once the solvent is recycled, laboratory members from Chandler and Havemeyer will pick up the solvents in Chemstore. Laboratories in other buildings will have their solvents dropped off to them via Biostores.
- Laboratories may reuse the solvents for glass washing or other applications which do not require the highest purity material.

Recycled Material for Reuse

Benefits of Recycling

- Recycling solvents saves laboratories money by reducing the volume of solvents purchased.
- The solvent recycling program is free of charge to the campus community.
- Recycling solvents reduces the environmental impact by reducing the volume of solvents destined for disposal at incineration facilities.



Solvent Collection Container

Quality Control

- Solvents collected by lab groups for recycling will **never** be mixed with other laboratories solvents. Each lab will receive the same solvents they initially collected back for reuse.
- Random samples are periodically analyzed for quality.
- EH&S communicates with lab groups if the process or quality of recycled material significantly changes.

FAQ's

What solvents are acceptable for recycling?

Methanol, ethanol and acetone. Contact EH&S if your laboratory generates other solvents in large volumes which may be candidates for addition to the recycling program.

How do I know if my lab may be candidate for the Solvent Recycling Program?

Your laboratory may meet the criteria if:

- Solvents (methanol, ethanol or acetone) are generated in volumes of more than 5-gallons per week.
- Solvents are not used or mixed with corrosive, toxic, or reactive materials.
- Solvents are not heavily contaminated with other compounds.
- High quality solvents are not required for all laboratory procedures, for instance glass washing operations.

Contact EH&S with questions, comments, or to determine if your lab group is a candidate for the Program.