



SAFETY ALERT

Safe use of hand sanitizers



Background: Hand Sanitizers

Hand sanitizers are over-the-counter (OTC) products that can help consumers reduce bacteria on their hands. However, eye injuries have become much more frequent, likely due to the marked increase in the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety Concern

Hand sanitizer is widely available across campus; unfortunately, potential eye injuries may occur. Due to manufacturing variability, sanitizing dispensers have the potential to solidify over time when exposed and dried out due to the surrounding environment. If not frequently maintained, clogged nozzles may cause upward spray patterns when used and cause eye exposure and injury.

How to use hand sanitizer safely

- Inspect hand sanitizing bottles for any damage or nozzle obstruction **BEFORE** each use. Clean nozzle surface after each use to minimize obstruction of the dispenser.
- **If the bottle nozzle is obstructed and cannot be freed for proper dispensing of its contents, then the unit should be appropriately discarded and replaced.**
- Do not swallow hand sanitizer or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers in or near your eyes.
- After applying alcohol-based hand sanitizer to your hands, avoid touching your eyes because the alcohol in the hand sanitizer can cause severe irritation and damage to the surface of the eye. Provide suitable time to fully dry/evaporate.
- Adults should always supervise young children, particularly those younger than 6 years old, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, especially around dispensers containing these hand sanitizers, which often are at children's eye level and may come into contact due to unintentional over-spray.
- Store alcohol-based hand sanitizers, OTC, or prescription medicines safely and out of children's reach.
- Always read and follow the directions and warnings on the OTC Drug Facts label.
- Avoid products that say "FDA-approved" on the label – there are no hand sanitizers approved by the FDA.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you have swallowed hand sanitizer or are experiencing symptoms after repeated use of these products on your skin. Contact your poison center (1-800-222-1222) for advice.
- Symptoms include headache, blurred vision or blindness, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, confusion, loss of coordination, decreased alertness, slowed pulse and breathing, skin or eye irritation.
- Only use alcohol-based hand sanitizers or rubs for their intended purpose – to clean hands.
- For more information, see the [FDA's consumer warning letter which is available in English and Spanish.](#)
- Personal Protective Equipment may be worn (i.e., face shield, safety glasses) for additional safety measures. Consult the Safety Data Sheet for the specific manufacture use instructions.
- **Keep clear of all ignitable sources when in storage or use.** In the interest of safety, remember that alcohol vapors can ignite if exposed to an ignition source, such as light switches or cigarette lighters.



First Aid Measures: Eye Contact

If alcohol-based hand sanitizer accidentally splashes or gets in your eyes or those of a child, immediately and **thoroughly rinse** them under gently running water such as from a sink tap, water bottle, or emergency shower **for at least 15 to 20 minutes.**

Do not delay rinsing your eyes, as **immediate rinsing is the most important** thing you can do to reduce the risk of serious eye injury.

If symptoms such as redness, pain, irritation, visual impairment, blurred vision, or light sensitivity persist after rinsing, seek immediate medical attention.

Chemical Hygiene Plan

For additional guidance on chemical use, storage, and disposal, please review the campus's [Chemical Hygiene Plan](#)



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Proper Disposal

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer typically contains at least 60 percent alcohol by volume making it highly flammable and is considered a federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste product. Expired hand sanitizer only becomes a waste when it cannot be used, reused, reclaimed, or recycled.



Do not put hand sanitizer down the drain. Clean Water Act regulations prohibit the illegal discharge of what would otherwise be an ignitable hazardous waste.



Do not put hand sanitizer in the trash bin or garbage pail. RCRA hazardous wastes may not go into the regular trash unless the generator is considered a household or very small quantity generator.



Do not take hand sanitizer to a household hazardous waste collection site. Solid waste transfer stations, also known as household hazardous waste collection sites, can take limited amounts of hazardous waste from households and very small quantity generators. These facilities are not set up to accept large quantities of hazardous waste, nor are they legally allowed to do so.



Do call the Office of Environmental Health and Safety for guidance on how to properly collect and discard expired or unused quantities of hand sanitizer solutions.



Do discard all hazardous waste materials through the CSU Safety web application: Waste Accumulation Storage Tracking electronically ([WASTE](#)) to facilitate the appropriate labeling, tracking, collection, and shipping of hazardous waste on our campus.



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EH&S Facts

WASTe: Hazardous Waste Management System

Waste Accumulation Storage Tracking electronically ([WASTe](#)) is a web-based system that facilitates regulatory compliant labeling, tracking, collecting and disposal of hazardous wastes. This application will provide an interface between Principal Investigators (PIs), laboratory staff and other generators of regulated wastes and the waste management staff.

WASTe Features

The Principal Investigator (PI) or Responsible Person (RP) must sign in first and is able to designate a Delegate who will manage the lab/group's WASTe account. Users have the ability to create, edit, print waste tags, as well as, create waste tag templates for routinely generated waste, and request waste pick-ups. Three types of user accounts are available in WASTe:



Key Features

- Easy-to-use interface
- Integration with your CPP Logon
- Three user tiers
- Reusable templates
- Able to manage Pick-Up requests



Responsible Person (RP)

Owner of the group or lab, most commonly the Principal Investigator (PI). RPs assign the level of access for each lab/group member.



Delegate

These users have the ability to do many of the same functions as the RPs. Able to maintain the lab/group's templates in WASTe, add/delete other personnel and select lab/group location(s).



Authorized User (AU)

All other lab/group members. These users have the ability to create waste tags, templates, and request waste pick-ups.



The Navigation icon will provide you additional options

Account Set Up

1. Getting Started

- Log in to CSU Safety at <https://csu.risksafety.solutions/myboard>
- Select the **person icon** in the right-hand corner of the home screen to access your Profile account
- When you log in to **Profile**, the **Summary** tab displays your roles and contact information, including your system permissions or role assignments

2. Creating a Group

- Select the **Groups** tab.
- Select the blue **Add Group** button.
- Enter the **group name** and select **Submit**.
- Select the **People** tab to search and choose the name of the person/s you'd like to add to your group
- Select the **Locations** tab to search and choose a building location and room associated with your group
- Select the **green checkmark** icon to complete – your group is now set up and integrated throughout the RSS product suite

Using WASTe

1. Create a Waste Tag (available to all users)

- Select **+ Create a New Tag** button on home page
- Enter container information and **add** chemical constituents (container size and unit will only appear after physical state is selected).
- Select Hazard Class
- Complete **Create New Tag** form
- Select **Save** button at bottom of page

2. Create a Template

- Follow the same steps above to create a tag
- Select **Save as Template**

3. Request a Pickup

- Select **Navigation** icon on the left of the top toolbar
- Select **Tags**
- Select the **arrow icon** to the left of the desired tag to move item to **Ready for Pickup**

4. View Tags/Templates

- Select **Navigation** icon on the left of the top tool bar
- Select **Tags**
- Select the type of tag/template you would like to view using the dropdown
- Select filter
- Choose **Tags** or **Template**

Additional Information

- Environmental Health and Safety: (909) 869-4697 or at ehs@cpp.edu
- WASTe FAQ: <https://csu.risksafety.solutions/help/waste>
- [Risk and Safety Solutions WASTe Tutorials](#)
- Account Support: service@RiskandSafetySolutions.com



WASTE MATTERS AT CPP, DISPOSE OF YOUR CHEMICALS THE RIGHT WAY!



Ensure a **WASTE hazardous waste label** is affixed to the container prior to initial collection



Request hazardous waste pick-up through **WASTE** when container is 80% full or within 90 days



Place hazardous waste container in designated labeled "**Pick-Up**" area/bin



CalPolyPomona
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



Hazardous waste technician will collect all items in the pick-up bin during **weekly rounds**



Maintain containers in **secondary containment**



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