DISPOSAL OF CHEMICALS

When scanning the chemicals for the chemical inventory update, we should dispose of everything from the list below:

- (almost) empty bottles,
- unused old chemicals (e.g. you find a 10-year old bottle of a very common chemical),
- and improperly stored chemicals (the label on the chemical says "air sensitive, store under argon" and the chemical has been left outside for the last x-years).

Old / improperly stored chemicals should be brought to a designated fumehood and sorted into "container bins".

- The chemicals in original packaging can go into the containers just as they are, but different containers are needed to separately dispose of basic chemicals, acids, oxidizing reagents etc. (see figure below for compatibilities). A sticker "SPECIAL waste" should be put on all such containers (see figures below).

All chemicals that are no longer in their original containers / were "home-made" can be disposed of in the same way as described in the above paragraph, but a different sticker that reads "UNKNOWN waste" needs to be used (see figures below).

The containers can then be brought down to the magasin and place in a storage unit outside (in the same place where the rest of the trash bags with chemicals contaminated material from the lab also go).

However, very reactive / toxic chemicals (cianides, Grignards, hydrides, organolithium reagents, Hg, Na / Li metals etc.) cannot be disposed of in this way. They either need to be quenched in the lab (e.g. Grignards) or put in a separate container (e.g. cianides) and brought down to the magasin.





