



CHEMICAL INVENTORY PROGRAM FAQs

Why does UCSC have a Chemical Inventory Program?

UCSC maintains a chemical inventory system for several reasons including:

1. A regulatory mandate by the state of California requires UCSC to submit an updated inventory of all chemical storage and use sites each year to the County of Santa Cruz.
2. A regulatory mandate by CAL-OSHA as per the Lab Standard. The Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories Standard specifically requires lab workers to be trained on the hazards associated with the materials they use. In order for researchers to understand these hazards, they need to have access and knowledge of the lab specific chemical inventory.
3. Improved safety and efficiency of the lab through reduced costs such as:
 - a. Helping researchers quickly determine whether the chemicals they want are already available in the lab and where they are located
 - b. Reducing costs by eliminating unnecessary or redundant chemical purchases and associated disposal fees.
4. It provides a tool to determine if other researchers possess small amounts of chemicals you may borrow for pilot or one-time experiments.
5. It implements a system that communicates the safe chemical storage and segregation principals according to hazard class (flammable, oxidizer, corrosive acid, etc)
6. It assists with emergency preparedness. This information is available to emergency personnel so they can determine what hazards are present in the lab and where they are located.

Are We Required to Maintain the Inventory?

EH&S is requesting that each lab maintain its own inventory. Chemicals training is available online or personal training is available upon request. EH&S staff may be available to help reconcile or barcode an inventory, please contact EH&S at 459-2553 or ehs@ucsc.edu to schedule.

How Do I Maintain My Own Chemical Inventory?

The process is relatively straight forward and is taught in Chemicals training. Barcodes are supplied for you to apply to your chemical containers.

Can I Use An Old Barcode For A New Bottle of the same item?

It is preferred that once an empty container is scanned and removed from Chemicals, that the barcode not be reused.

What Should I Do About Inventory For Items That Need To Be Refrigerated At All Times?

Inventory the chemicals yourself and post a current list on the outside of the refrigerator or freezer.

Who can I Ask Questions about Chemical Inventory?

Please contact EH&S at 459-2553 or ehs@ucsc.edu.