



## 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 coded color and letter 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.

### What do the colored dots on the chemical containers mean?

The colored dots indicate the storage groups for each class of chemicals. Chemicals with the same color and letter dot can be stored together safely as can compatible chemicals with different color dots and letters (based on the Chemical Storage Group Compatibility Table). The storage color code should NOT be confused with specific chemical hazards. This system is designed to assist you with implementation of safe chemical storage practices.

(Please refer to the MSDS for each chemical to find toxicity and other hazard information. In addition to the storage group information sheet, please refer to the chemical storage hazards Table).

### Are We Required to Maintain the Inventory once it is Completed by EH&S?

EH&S is requesting that each lab maintain its own inventory after this cycle of inventory is gathered by the EH&S students. ChemTracker group training is provided at frequent intervals and personal training is available upon request.

**How Do I Maintain My Own Chemical Inventory?**

The process is relatively straight forward and is taught in ChemTracker training. Storage dots and barcodes are supplied after training for you to apply to your chemical containers.

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

Yes, once the older bottle is empty feel free to recycle old barcodes. The new container must be the same type and quantity as the original material.

**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. You can place the barcodes on this list in order to keep track of your inventory.

**Who can I Ask Questions about Chemical Inventory?**

Please contact the ChemTracker Administrator 459-2553 or [ehs@ucsc.edu](mailto:ehs@ucsc.edu).