

The Hazardous Waste Search Table

The Division of Environmental Protection has created a new tool to help the NIH community make hazardous waste determinations for their chemical waste: the Hazardous Waste Search Table. The table was created to help staff classify their waste, particularly when using the [NIH Chemical Waste Tag](#). The searchable table indicates the five hazards or pictograms used on the NIH Chemical Waste Tag. Simply search for any chemical waste you are collecting and check the pictograms on the Tag that match those indicated by the table. This table is available on the NEMS website here:

<https://nems.nih.gov/environmental-programs/Pages/hazardous-waste.aspx>

To use the table, you may search by hazardous waste code (for example, D001), chemical name, or chemical abstract number (CAS; for example, 141-78-6). The bottle label or the Safety Data Sheet should provide this information for most chemicals. The results for your search will signal whether the generated waste is a hazardous waste. As an example, searching for “ethyl acetate” will result in these “hits”:

Search by HW Code, Chemical Name or Abstract No

ethyl acetate Clear filter






Show 10 entries Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries (filtered from 2,077 total entries)






Hazardous Waste No.	Chemical Abstracts No.	Substance	HW Type	Hazards
D001	110-49-6	2-Methoxy Ethyl Acetate	D-Listed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flammable <input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Reactive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidizer
D001	141-78-6	Ethyl acetate	D-Listed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flammable <input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Reactive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidizer
F003	141-78-6	Ethyl acetate	F-Listed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flammable <input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Reactive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidizer
U112	141-78-6	Ethyl acetate (I)	U-Listed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flammable <input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Reactive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidizer

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From these results, it is possible to determine that ethyl acetate is both flammable and toxic. It is also worth noting that multiple results may appear for the same chemical with different waste codes (D001, U112, and F003 from this example). This means that ethyl acetate is listed under multiple hazardous waste codes and will appear in a search for any one of these codes.

How does the Hazardous Waste Search Table transition to the NIH Chemical Waste Tag? The search table will address two critical questions now required on all chemical waste tags: Is the chemical waste a hazardous waste? What are the hazards of the chemical waste? Answering those two questions is necessary for the Chemical Waste Identification section of the NIH Chemical Waste Tag (shown below).

Chemical Waste Identification:
If a      box is checked below, you must check the hazardous waste box, yes.

Flammable	Corrosive	Reactive	Toxic	Oxidizer
				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Waste? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				

Ethyl acetate is regulated as hazardous waste since it has three waste codes, although only one code is required to be considered regulated. Following that, the search table reveals the hazards for ethyl acetate are flammable and toxic. Using the information gathered from the search table, the NIH Chemical Waste Tag should display a marking of “Yes” for Hazardous Waste and markings next to the “Flammable” and “Toxic” pictograms. After finishing the Chemical Waste Identification section, the hazardous waste determination for this ethyl acetate waste example is complete.

We must stress that this table only shows hazards for chemicals regulated as hazardous waste. Any chemicals that are not regulated as hazardous waste will not appear in search results, but that does not mean they are without hazards. For example, ethidium bromide is not regulated as hazardous waste and will not appear in this table. However, ethidium bromide is toxic and should be handled and disposed accordingly. The information provided by this search table should be used only to complete the NIH Chemical Waste Tag. This search table should not be used as a tool for determining chemical discharge to the sanitary sewer, safety protocols, or disposal or treatment methods for any chemicals or chemical waste. In all cases, you should confer with the Division of Environmental Protection for advice concerning specific matters before making any decisions based on this search table.