

## SAFE STORAGE & DISPOSAL OF OIL OR SOLVENT SOAKED RAGS

Oil and solvent-soaked rags must be stored and disposed of properly to prevent combustion fires.

**Oil-soaked rags** are a spontaneous combustion hazard because the oil will oxidize and release heat. This heat can build up and ignite the oil-soaked rags.

**Solvent-soaked rags** are a fire hazard since many solvents are flammable. In addition, solvent vapours released by the rags are a health hazard. If reusing solvent-soaked rags, ensure they are stored in a well-ventilated area.

Oil-soaked rags & solvent-soak rags MUST be disposed of in step on metal waste container (e.g. Justrite cans, Figure 1). Plastic liners are not required and the waste container must be emptied daily. A fire extinguisher (type ABC) is required in all areas where flammable and combustible materials are being used and stored.



*Figure 1: Step on safety metal container for oil and solvent-soaked rags.*

### PROCEDURE FOR THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF OIL OR SOLVENT-SOAKED RAGS:

1. Collect rags in the designate step-on safety container (Figure 1)
2. At the end of the day, transfer the rags to a bag
3. Add water to the oil or solvent-soaked rags
4. Seal the bag properly to assure odors do not escape
5. Place the bag in a properly labeled metal drum (Figure 2) – drums are supplied by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)
6. Make sure the drum is appropriately labelled with the following:  
    **“OIL OR SOLVENT-SOAKED RAGS / FLAMMABLE”**
7. Contact EHS when the drum is full for pick-up via email at [hazardouswaste@concordia.ca](mailto:hazardouswaste@concordia.ca)



*Figure 2: Drums used to dispose oil or solvent-soaked rags.*

NEVER place oil or solvent-soaked rags or a bag of oil or solvent-soaked rags in a regular garbage receptacle.

**Questions or inquiries:** Environment Health & Safety  
514-848-2424 ext. 4877  
[hazardouswaste@concordia.ca](mailto:hazardouswaste@concordia.ca)