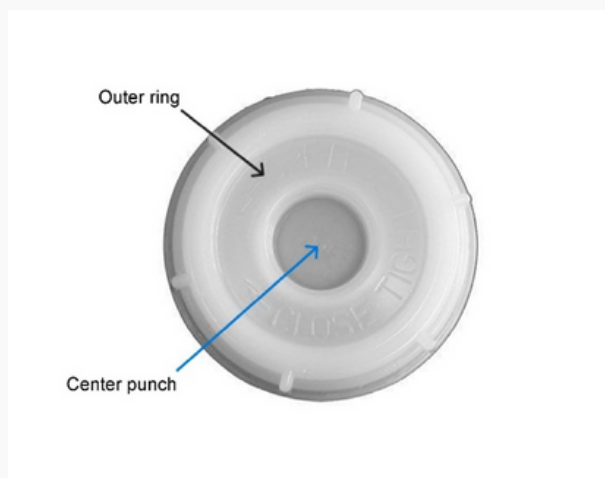


# LAB SAFETY QUICK FAQs

JANUARY 2026

## CAN OUR LAB USE ALTERNATIVE CONTAINERS FOR WASTE COLLECTION (E.G., CONTAINERS THAT COME WITH OR ARE RECOMMENDED FOR OUR EQUIPMENT)?



EHRM strongly recommends replacing any alternative waste containers with one of our standard 18L chemical waste carboys, pictured above. EHRM can create custom lids, including ports for unique drain lines, sensors, or other equipment needs; see second photo above. To request a custom lid, contact [chem\\_waste@lists.upenn.edu](mailto:chem_waste@lists.upenn.edu).

Labs that choose to use alternative waste containers are responsible for safely transferring their waste into an EHRM-provided container for pickup. Halogenated solvents and formaldehyde (formalin) solutions may not be transferred between containers. For questions or concerns, see our [Laboratory Chemical Waste Management Guidelines](#) or reach out to [chem\\_waste@lists.upenn.edu](mailto:chem_waste@lists.upenn.edu).

## HOW CAN LABS PARTICIPATE IN ENERGY WEEK?

This year, [Energy Week at Penn](#) runs February 23–27, 2026. In addition to all the exciting events on this year's schedule, Green Labs is collaborating with Thermo Fisher for free ULT Freezer Health Checks. Sign up for the assessment, including some no-cost repairs, by [completing the Qualtrics survey](#)! For questions, email Alisha Ramirez, Sustainable Labs Manager, at [alisharw@upenn.edu](mailto:alisharw@upenn.edu).

[Click here for archive of Lab Safety Quick FAQs.](#)

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RADIATION SAFETY

# LAB SAFETY QUICK FAQs

JANUARY 2026

## DOES EHRS OFFER GUIDANCE ON CONDUCTING FIELD RESEARCH?



### Penn Field H.A.T Field Hazard Assessment Tool

The dynamic and unpredictable nature of field settings requires faculty, staff, and researchers to thoroughly plan for potential hazards and emergencies. Whether conducted locally or internationally, fieldwork can expose individuals to risks stemming from both the specific location and the nature of the activities being performed.

Use the Field Hazard Assessment Tool (Field HAT) on our new [Field Study & Research Safety page](#) to help EHRS evaluate potential hazards and document important information about your field project. Upon receipt of the form, EHRS will offer guidance on the selection of personal protective equipment, coordination of safety training, and other identified hazard mitigation measures. Please do not hesitate to contact [EHRS](#) if you have questions or concerns

## HOW CAN I BEST MAINTAIN MY LABORATORY COLD STORAGE?



There are many actions that labs can take to ensure sample integrity and freezer longevity with the bonus of improving energy efficiency. Explore practical tips on our [Refrigerator & Freezer Inventory and Maintenance page](#), and consider joining the [2026 International Freezer Challenge](#). Participation is free—and the top-scoring Penn lab will celebrate with a popsicle party in July!

### **UPDATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

[Disposal Guidance for Spent ACK Lysis Buffer \(added 11/18/2025\)](#)  
Offers guidance on disposal of spent ACK Lysis Buffer.

[Safety Shower & Eyewash Program \(updated 12/2025\)](#)  
Added weekly eyewash testing log for 2026.

[Click here for archive of Lab Safety Quick FAQs.](#)