


<b>POLICY:</b> <b>DISPOSAL OF OILY RAGS</b>			<b>NUMBER:</b> S-48
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<b>PREPARED BY:</b>  Facilities Management (FM)	<b>AUTHORIZED BY:</b>  Lynn Logan	<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>  Safety Procedure	<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> June 1, 2015
			<b>SUPERSEDES:</b> New

**PURPOSE**  
 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that “oil and solvent-soaked rags” are properly managed and disposed of at Western.

**INTRODUCTION**  
 When materials are soaked with organic substances such as oils, spontaneous heating through oxidation can occur. When this happens, the temperature rises until spontaneous combustion occurs and the materials ignite.  
 Solvent-soaked rags are also a fire hazard since many solvents are flammable. Solvent vapours released by the rags are a health hazard. If reusing solvent-soaked rags, these should be stored in a well-ventilated area.

**INSTRUCTION**  
 Dispose of unwanted oil and solvent-soaked rags in specially designed metal cans as shown below. These containers are made of metal and have self-closing covers. **The risk of spontaneous combustion is virtually eliminated by limiting the oxygen in the container. The oxidation process will use up the oxygen in the container stopping the reaction, thus preventing a fire.**

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

1. Collect rags in the designated safety containers as shown

2. At the end of day, transfer the rags to a bag

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Add water to the oil or solvent-soaked rags</li> <li>4. Seal the bag properly to ensure odours do not escape</li> <li>5. Place the bag in a properly labelled metal drum; these drums are supplied by Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).</li> <li>6. Label the drum: <b>Oil or Solvent-soaked Rags / Flammable</b></li> <li>7. For removal of full drums, complete an "Inventory Form" and fax to OHS (fax # 83420). Inventory form and other waste management information may be found at: <a href="http://uwo.ca/hr/safety/topics/hazardous_waste.html">http://uwo.ca/hr/safety/topics/hazardous_waste.html</a></li> </ol>	