

## Use of Methylene Chloride in Research Labs

July 25, 2024, By the Office of Environmental Health & Safety

Dear members of the University of Cincinnati Research Community:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a [final rule](#) regulating the use of the solvent methylene chloride (dichloromethane, DCM). The Agency has determined that DCM represents an "unreasonable risk of injury to health" and the rule, which went into effect earlier this month, bans almost all uses of the chemical. Because of this final rule, colleges and universities are required to comply with this new law and the resulting regulations.

What that means for us at UC, while the laboratory use of DCM is not banned, the EPA has issued strict requirements for any continued use. To meet these requirements, we must identify all methylene chloride on campus and perform exposure monitoring for each activity involving DCM, even if used in fume hoods.

The Office of Environmental Health & Safety is working with researchers across campus to address this rule change. As an immediate step every department and principal investigator, please check your chemical inventory for all methylene chloride (This includes mixtures where the chemical is present >0.1%).

- **Eliminate:** If you no longer need the chemical submit for [hazardous waste pickup](#) immediately.
- **Substitute:** If you actively use the chemical or products containing .0.1% DCM, consider what alternatives could be used and if they will work for your project.

If you cannot eliminate or substitute DCM, you will need to develop an Exposure Control Plan, EH&S will work with you to develop this plan.

It is critical that every department and principal investigator participate in this program inventory, so please identify the location and the amounts of the DCM and send the information by email to Jason Lambers by August 15, 2024. If you have any questions contact the Office of Environmental Health & Safety: Jason Lambers, at 556-4968.