

## 5.12 Mystery Drums

*“Mystery drums” are buckets, barrels, or other containers with no labeling to identify the substance they contain. Mystery drums are harder to deal with than known wastes, but they are not impossible to address. Mystery drums should be a priority for identification and backhaul if needed.*

### How to deal with mystery drums:



### Tips for avoiding mystery drums:

- Don't mix fluids together.
- Check for empty barrels. If there are empty barrels stored at the landfill, punch a hole in the side near the bottom or crush them so they don't collect fluids.
- Keeping an up-to-date inventory of household hazardous waste at the landfill and HHW reuse shed will allow the operator to quickly identify new items, so that if something unknown is dropped off, the responsible party is more likely to still be in the community.
- Do not store mystery drums near the barge landing, river, or coastline. In the event of a flood or storm surge, the containers may be carried away.

### Examples:



*Large collection of drums at the landfill. It is not clear which ones may have liquid and which ones do not contain liquid.*



*Large collection of unlabeled drums at the landfill. It is not clear which ones may have liquid and which ones do not contain liquid.*