



Several universities, including Washington University in St. Louis, have experienced failing Sigma Aldrich plastic chemical containers, which crack or break, spilling their contents. The containers tend to be 10+ years old, which have become brittle due to aging and exposure to fluorescent and/or sunlight.

See the attachment for photo examples.

Other chemical distributor's plastic containers may also experience this same type of problem, but the issues to date have been found with Sigma Aldrich containers.

Safety Recommendations include:

- Inspect containers at least yearly when verifying your chemical inventory container counts
- Put suspect containers into sealed clear plastic bags, so if containers fails, contents are contained
- Clear packing tape can be wrapped around suspect containers to strengthen them; remember to reinforce bottoms and tops of containers near lids
- Use up aging chemicals or dispose of the chemical through the WU [Chemical Disposal](#) program
- Do not lift container by lid, as heavier containers may fail; slide a plate under a suspect container to support it if needed
- If the chemical is transferred from suspect container to a new container, make sure all [labeling requirements](#) are met

Please contact EH&S at 314-362-6816, [ehs@wustl.edu](mailto:ehs@wustl.edu), if you have any questions. Thank you.

Attachments:

[Research News Safety Alert - Sigma Aldrich Containers - 7-11-17.pdf](#)

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