

Overfilling Waste Containers

Two glass Winchesters were filled to the brim with waste dichloromethane (DCM). After ~2 hours, the Winchesters ruptured spilling their contents across a fume cupboard and surrounding area.

An investigation found the waste DCM had come from the collection flask of a rotary evaporator and added to the Winchester when cold (estimated 5 °C). It is believed that the expansion after the solvent reached room temperature was sufficient to cause the containers to fail.

