

# Drain Policy for Chemistry Department Howard University

Material	Can it go down the drain?	What to do with it
<b>Biohazardous waste</b>	Solids: NO  Liquids: NO, unless they have been deactivated	Liquid biohazardous waste can be decontaminated and made suitable for drain disposal in 2 ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deactivate with bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts liquid waste) for 30 minutes before pouring it down the drain.</li> <li>• Occasionally, liquid waste is autoclaved. Do not add bleach in this case. Read</li> </ul>
<b>Controlled substances</b>	NO	Contact College of Medicine
<b>Radioactive waste</b>	NO	Contact Radiation safety Officer
<b>Hazardous chemical waste</b>	NO	Contact Lab Safety for the Department
Non-liquids	Can it go down the drain?	What to do with it
<b>Solids, sludges, or viscous substances</b>	NO	These items can obstruct the flow of sewage
<b>Powders and salts</b>	NO	These items can obstruct the flow of sewage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not dissolve</b> them with water.</li> </ul>
Corrosive pH levels	Can it go down the drain?	What to do with it
<b>Corrosive waste with a pH between 2.0 and 5.0</b>	NO, unless it has been adjusted	You have 2 disposal options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust the pH to greater than 5.0 and less than 12.5 and then dispose of it down the drain.</li> <li>• Store and dispose of non-adjusted waste</li> </ul>
<b>Corrosive waste with a pH of 2.0 or lower or pH of 12.5 or higher</b>	NO	This kind of waste is always considered hazardous chemical waste. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not adjust it</li> </ul>
Hot liquids	Can it go down the drain?	What to do with it
<b>Hot, nonhazardous liquids (150°F or</b>	NO, unless in volumes of less than	For 10 gallons or more of nonhazardous hot liquid:

more)	10 gallons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cool the liquid to below 150°F before pouring it down the drain.</li> </ul>
<b>Grease and oil</b>	<b>Can it go down the drain?</b>	<b>What to do with it</b>
<b>Grease and oil</b>	NO, unless the concentration is less than 500 mg per liter	<p>For higher concentrations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of substances such as automotive oil, gear oil, and machinery grease as <b>hazardous waste</b></li> <li>Place substances such as vegetable oil, lard, or shortening in the regular trash.</li> </ul>
<b>Common questions</b>	<b>Can it go down the drain?</b>	<b>What to do with it</b>
<b>Alcohols</b>	NO, unless the concentration is nonhazardous	<p>Ethanol is nonhazardous in concentrations less than 24%. Dilution of higher concentrations of any alcohol is <b>not allowed</b>. For other alcohols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of as hazardous waste</li> </ul>
<b>Formalin and formaldehyde</b>	NO, unless the concentration is nonhazardous and does not contain methanol or other hazardous chemicals	<p>This concentration is nonhazardous and can go down the drain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalin solutions containing less than 2.9% formaldehyde</li> </ul> <p>Dilution of higher concentrations is <b>not allowed</b>. For higher concentrations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of as hazardous waste</li> </ul>
<b>Hydrogen peroxide</b>	NO, unless its concentration is less than 8%	<p>Dilution of higher concentrations is not allowed. For higher concentrations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of as hazardous waste</li> </ul>
<b>Photo and X-ray processor chemicals</b>	NO, unless it is spent photo developer <b>not</b> mixed with fixer	<p>For concentrated, unused processor chemicals and other spent solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of as hazardous waste</li> </ul>
<b>Other chemicals</b>	NO, unless the concentration is nonhazardous	<p>Some chemicals are hazardous in any concentration. Dilution of higher concentrations is <b>not allowed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check the SDS</li> </ul>