

Chemical Hazardous Waste Spotlight

Certain materials generated by research lab activities must be disposed of as “regulated medical waste.” The information presented in the Chemical Hazardous Waste SOP will assist you with categories, packing and labeling waste materials that fall in the category of biohazardous or regulated medical wastes.

Hazardous Waste Classification: Waste is considered regulated hazardous waste if it meets any of the following:

- On the F-List (*Non-Specific Source Waste)
- On the P-List or U-List (*Discarded Commercial Chemical Products)
- Exhibit any characteristic of hazardous waste as described as: ignitable, corrosive, reactive or toxic

Chemical Waste Liquids – Liquid chemical waste is disposed via sanitary sewer drain disposal or a Chemical Waste Program. Liquids are never disposed in the trash or in the storm drains.

Sanitary Sewer Drain Disposal – Drain disposal is only permissible for select wastes*. Submitting any other chemical waste into the sewer system may not be in compliance with these regulations and rules and may result in criminal charges. Do not dispose of any other wastes via the drain without express permission from the Department of Environmental Health & Safety.

Chemical Waste Program – Both liquid and solid wastes must be disposed of in compliance with the Chemical Waste Program.

Liquid chemical waste that is not regulated hazardous waste and not on the list for sanitary sewer drain disposal (i.e., used oil and elemental mercury, etc.) should be:

- Packed in strong containers with threaded lids
- Labeled with the contents
- **NOT** labeled “Hazardous Wastes”
- Submitted at the Chemical Hazardous Waste Drop Off

Solid chemical wastes are **NEVER** disposed down the drain or in the storm drains, i.e., silica gel, etc.

Trash disposal is only permissible for select wastes. *These solids are not considered regulated hazardous wastes by EPA, and are not subject to Washington, D.C. Pollutant Discharge Elimination Rules.

Mercury containing devices, computers, electronics and batteries all fall under the category of Universal Hazardous Wastes and should be disposed of in accordance with the Chemical Hazardous Waste Disposal Program.

Responsibility for classifying wastes as hazardous rests with the generator. Waste is collected directly from the laboratories or the point of generation and moved to an authorized hazardous waste accumulation storage area per facility.

- Wastes eligible for removal*: (i.e., used pump oil, universal waste batteries, etc.)
- Wastes restricted from removal*: (i.e., regulated medical wastes, radioactive wastes, etc.)
- Requirements for removal*: (i.e., all wastes must be containerized and sealed tightly, etc.)