

Waste Streams & Disposal Guidelines

Trash:

- Material not in contact with radioactive or biohazardous waste.
 - Weigh boats, paper towels, used gloves, etc.
- PLASTIC chemical containers- Labels must be removed/defaced.
- No glass of any kind, or material containing chemical residue.

Glass Waste:

- Must be properly placed in one of the lab's labeled "Glass Waste Disposal" boxes
- Pipettes, vials, and broken glassware are to be disposed of here.
- Empty and rinsed GLASS chemical containers, without caps, can also be disposed of here.
- Everything must be cleaned of chemical residue prior to disposal.
- Glass Waste Disposal boxes should be sealed for disposal at 50% full- never over fill them.

Sharps:

- All needles must be placed in one of the official Sharps containers located in each lab.
- Sharps are considered biohazardous waste even if not used in a biohazard context, and must be treated as such for disposal.
- **Never** overfull a sharps box, as accidental needle sticks can occur.

Biohazardous Waste:

- All waste generated from biological systems, or in contact with biological systems (cell culture media, serum, etc.) must be considered biohazardous, and disposed of appropriately.
- Liquid waste **should not** be put into the biohazardous waste container. If it contains no hazardous chemicals and is purely a biohazard, it should be properly decontaminated with bleach.
- Paper towels and wrappings that did not contact biological waste may be disposed of in the regular trash.

Chemical Waste:

All byproducts from reactions, purifications, washing, etc. are considered chemical waste and must be properly disposed of. Each lab should have waste containers for our four most common waste streams:

- Non-Halogenated Organics
- Halogenated Organics (also includes sulfur containing organics)
- Aqueous Waste (pH between 5.5 and 10, mineral acids, mineral bases and salts)
- Wash Acetone Waste (waste acetone generated from washing glassware)

Each waste container should be a 1-gallon bottle, either an empty solvent bottle with a defaced label or an approved plastic waste container, and should be capped with an Eco-Funnel. The funnel lid must remain closed except when adding to the bottle.

Each waste bottle must be properly labeled using the template provided by OEHS, and should include the type of waste stream (for lab identification), as well as the chemicals contained.

- Each time you add waste to a container, you should check that the major components (>5-10% of the waste) are already on the label.

- If you are adding a new component to the waste, add the component and approximate % to the label when you add it to the bottle.

Full waste bottles should be stored in the designated areas in each lab, in a secondary waste containment tray. Waste should not be allowed to pile up, and should be removed from the lab by the appropriate parties regularly for disposal.

Any chemicals that are specifically generated in large quantities, or as solid waste, should be collected in appropriate separate containers, and labeled as such. These include:

- Silica Waste from Columns
- Heavy Metal Waste
- Acutely toxic chemicals, as defined by the EPA.