
The Waste-Paper

“A Waste is a terrible thing to mind”

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Policy on Drain Disposal of Chemical Waste

Environmental Health and Safety administers a hazardous waste disposal contract that provides a safe and legal means for the proper disposal of chemical waste through EPA permitted waste disposal companies. This arrangement has been in effect for many years and the procedures in the various Science, Engineering, and Facilities departments for getting your waste into this system are well established.

The University does not charge either the department or individual users for any of the costs of routine chemical waste disposal. The decision not to charge back these costs was made, in part, to avoid providing an incentive for improper disposal via laboratory hoods or the sanitary sewer.

The Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority (SBRSA) has stringent rules concerning drain disposal of:

- "known toxic compounds"
- commercial solvents
- flammable liquids, solids, or gases
- corrosives
- metals
- cyanides

These restrictions, in addition to New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination Rules, effectively preclude drain disposal of most wastes. There are a limited number of wastes for which either drain disposal via the sanitary sewer or disposal via laboratory trash is safe and permissible. Check the list on the EHS web site (<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/nonhaz.htm>) to determine which disposal method is acceptable. For any other wastes, do not dispose via the drain without express permission from EHS (258-5294) or Bob Ortego (258-1841), Environmental Compliance Manager. **Never dispose of a chemical waste via a storm sewer.**

SBRSA has initiated a program of sampling sanitary sewer lines immediately downstream from its industrial and other large users (including Princeton University). The implications of any adverse findings from this program are obvious.

Please take a close look at the procedures for handling chemical wastes in your laboratory or work area and avail yourself of the existing chemical waste disposal system. Seek ways to minimize wastes as much as possible. If you have specific questions about waste disposal, contact Steve Elwood at 258-6271.

Hey, who's the new guy at E-Quad??



Joe Laskow joins Princeton University as E-Quad's new receiving and mailroom services technician. Joe comes to us from Lucent Technologies, where he spent six years as a member of the research and development technical staff designing printed circuit-boards. Joe's new duties include assisting with E-Quad's hazardous waste collection and coordinating the receiving and distribution of compressed gas cylinders. Joe is an avid Giants and Yankees fan. (insert jokes here) and thoroughly enjoys trips to the Jersey shore. Joe's motto on life is "There's always room for improvement." Joe can be reached for harassment or for more legitimate questions at extension 8-4563 or via email at jlaskow@Princeton.EDU. So give Joe a call or better yet stop by the receiving room and say hello.





A Place For Your Waste

There are many different types of waste streams generated by labs including hazardous waste, medical waste, recyclable waste, etc. Disposing of the waste through the right waste stream helps to prevent excess material in the hazardous or biological waste streams. The following are examples of different waste streams and how to handle them.

Each waste stream has its own designated receptacle or storage area, depending on your department or location. Please see the EHS web page for more information about where and how to dispose of these wastes.

EHS HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTACTS

Main Office	8-5294
Steve Elwood (Chemical & Radioactive Waste)	8-6271
Marcia Leach (Waste-Paper)	8-5296
Don Robasser (Biohazardous Waste)	8-6256
EHS Web Page	http://www.princeton.edu/ehs

Save A Tree

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Waste Stream Chart for Solid, Recyclable and Medical Waste (not including chemical or radioactive wastes)

WASTE CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	CONTAINER	HANDLING	ROUTING
Non-recyclable waste glass, plastics Sharps from non-culture labs	Plate glass, pyrex, light bulbs, broken glass chemical containers, Non-contaminated* pipettes, needles, syringes, slides, blades, cover slips	Tall cardboard box with heavy plastic liner	Removed by janitors when full	Solid waste (non-recyclable)
Empty chemical containers	Intact, triple-rinsed glass and plastic (#1 and #2) containers; recyclable without caps	Plastic bucket with half lid	Removed by janitors when full	Recyclable Waste
Lab trash	Non-contaminated* gloves, bench paper, packaging materials, foil, plastic bags, paper towels, weighing boats, bottle caps, fly media, culture plates (with or without media), culture and centrifuge tubes (with or without media), filter flasks silica gel (not contaminated with solvents)	Standard waste basket with plastic liner Silica gel and other powders must be in sealed bag or container before placement in waste basket.	Removed daily by janitors	Solid waste
Regulated Medical Waste				
All Sharps	All Pasteur and other glass pipettes, needles, syringes, scalpel blades, razor blades, slides, coverslips	Labeled sharps containers	Sealed and placed in medical waste box by lab staff	Medical waste
Other Medical Waste	Experimentally cultured stocks, plates or other disposables associated with culture work; ethidium bromide gels	Medical waste box with red plastic liner Or Labeled sharps container	Sealed, labeled and placed in corridor by lab staff. Collected by janitors.	Medical waste

* Non-contaminated applies to any material not having been in contact with biological cultures.