
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 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 EHS web site (<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/nonhaz.htm>) to determine which disposal method is acceptable for your waste stream. For corrosives, always perform elementary neutralization prior to discharging any quantity larger than 10 – 20 mL (instructions on the web at <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/elementaryneutralization.htm>). 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 routinely samples 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. Use secondary containment when collecting or storing wastes near a sink or

floor drain to prevent inadvertent drain disposal. If you have specific questions about waste disposal, contact Steve Elwood at 258-6271.

Helen Norman Joins EHS Staff:



[Helen Norman](#) is the new Health and Safety Specialist, filling the position vacated by Maurice Lynch. Helen was most recently the manager of environmental health and safety at County College of Morris and has a strong background in laboratory safety, with extensive experience working in biomedical laboratories. Welcome, Helen!

“I am privileged to have been selected to serve Princeton University in the role of Health and Safety Specialist. I will endeavor to use my knowledge and acquired skills to maintaining a safe and healthful environment for all members of this respected University.”

A decorative graphic with a yellow background, featuring several red hearts and purple flowers with green leaves. The text is centered within the graphic.

This month's waste pickup will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2005
Bring wastes to collection area on Wednesday, February 23



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.

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.

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

Remember...

To prevent inadvertent releases of hazardous materials to the sanitary sewer system, always store liquid chemical containers kept near sinks and/or floor drains in secondary containment (e.g., plastic basin, etc.). For information regarding secondary containment methods contact EHS at 258-5294.