Waste Disposal Guide for SJSU Laboratories

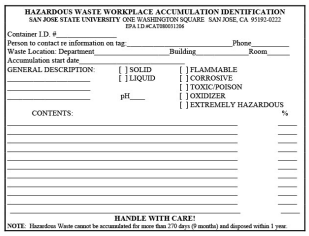
SHARPS DISPOSAL

- **Sharps Defined:** any glass/metal/plastic instruments or items that have acute rigid corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing human skin including: hypodermic needles, syringes with needles, blades, scalpels, razors, blood vials or tubes (<100mL liquid), broken and unbroken biologically contaminated glassware, glass microscope slides, pipettes and pipette tips, and serological pipettes. If not sure, assume it's a sharp.
- **Sharps Container Safety:** Do NOT overfill sharps containers. Stop filling at the fill line. Do Not allow sharps to stick out of the container lid as this presents a cutting hazard to other people.
- **Sharps Contaminated with Infectious Agents:** Sharps contaminated with infectious agents known to cause severe illness in healthy individuals (e.g. Lentivirus, Pathogenic E.coli) **must** be chemically disinfected prior to being placed inside a sharps container.
- **Sharps Contaminated with Chemicals:** Sharps contaminated with hazardous chemicals must be placed inside a rigid container & labeled with the SJSU Hazardous Waste Label listing all constituents. Dispose as chemical waste.
- **Collection Requests:** To request a collection, contact your College safety or leadership team.

RED BAG WASTE / BIOHAZARDOUS CLINICAL OR LAB WASTE

- **Red Bag Waste Defined:** includes solid, non-sharps, and non-chemical waste, small amounts of unrecognizable animal tissues, and debris, such as wipes, contaminated with biological material.
- **Red Bag Safety:** Do NOT place sharps into red bags. Secure red bags at all times. Must not be leaking or left in public corridors. Always store inside rigid, leak-proof containers, with a tight-fitting lid. Four (4) sides and the lid must be marked with a biohazard symbol. Double-bag when bagging saturated material to prevent leaks.
- **Red Bag Procedures:** red bags (ASTM D1922) must be contained inside & transported within a rigid, non-leaking container at all times. Do not allow red bags to scrape against your legs or body.
- **Red Bag Disposal**: Red bags are collected inside 40-gallon plastic bins designed for the safe transport off campus.

CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL



HAZARDOUS WASTE WORKPLACE ACCUMULATION IDENTIFICATION
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE SAN JOSE, CA 95192-0222
EPA I.D.#CAT000511266

Container I.D. #_____
Person to contact re information on tag:_____Phone_____
Waste Location: Department_____Building_____Room_____
Accumulation start date_____
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: [ ] SOLID [ ] FLAMMABLE
[ ] LIQUID [ ] CORROSIVE
[ ] TOXIC/POISON
pH____ [ ] OXIDIZER
[ ] EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS
CONTENTS: %

HANDLE WITH CARE!
NOTE: Hazardous Waste cannot be accumulated for more than 270 days (9 months) and disposed within 1 year.

- **Chemical Waste Defined:** includes all chemical waste and empty chemical containers of acutely toxic chemicals. All chemical wastes must be disposed through EHS.
- **Chemical Waste Procedures:** Chemical wastes must be accumulated inside compatible and sealable containers, labeled with SJSU Hazardous Waste label, including constituent percentages + start date, stored inside secondary containment, and segregated from incompatible chemicals. Always close waste container caps or lids when not in use.
- **Accumulation Time Limits:** Chemical wastes must be disposed within 1 year of accumulation start date. To do so, please ensure your waste is removed before 9 months.
- **Waste Collection:** Contact your Department Safety Team to discuss the proper procedures for collection.

AEROSOL CANS, E-WASTE, EMPTY CONTAINERS, & OTHER WASTE DISPOSAL

- **Aerosol Cans:** All aerosol cans must be recycled. Never put an aerosol can in the trash. Collect then contact EHS.
- **Batteries, Electronics, & Light Bulbs:** All batteries, electronics (e.g. E-Waste with circuit boards), and light bulbs must be recycled. Contact SJSU IT for removal of electronics with sensitive data (e.g., computers, copiers, and electronic data storage devices). For removal of all other electronics, batteries, & bulbs, contact FD&O Service Desk by Phone: 408-924-1950 (4-1950) or put in a Service Request: https://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/ OR one.sjsu.edu
- **Drain Disposal of Chemicals:** Only non-hazardous liquid chemicals approved by EHS may be drain disposed.
- **DEA-Controlled Substances:** Contact EHS to coordinate the disposal of DEA-controlled substances.
- **Radioactive Waste:** Contact EHS to coordinate the disposal of radioactive substances and wastes.
- **Empty Containers:** Empty plastic & glass bottles smaller than 5 gallons that previously contained non-acutely toxic chemicals must be scraped and/or rinsed clean, labels defaced, and placed inside normal trash/refuse. Containers larger than 5 gallons (e.g. 10-gallon, 15-galon, 30-gallon, 55-gallon) must be disposed through EHS.
- **Normal Trash/Refuse:** Standard laboratory articles (e.g., gloves, bench paper/bench pads) contaminated or uncontaminated with non-hazardous chemicals may be disposed via the normal trash/refuse. SJSU utilizes a single stream waste collection strategy where trash is sent to a sorting facility. This strategy results in substantial increases in recycling in lieu of landfill disposal. Please do your part to prevent hazardous waste from entering the landfill!

WASTE DISPOSAL QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Phone: 408-924-2152 // Email: ehs@sjsu.edu // Website: https://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/departments/ehs/