# SJSU | ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

## **Laboratory Waste Disposal Guide**

### **Chemical Waste**

- Definition: Research-grade chemicals, hazardous consumer products, and materials/containers contaminated with acute toxins, carcinogens, or reproductive toxins.
- Procedures: Chemical wastes must be inside compatible containers with a SJSU Hazardous Waste Label (including constituent concentrations & start date). Refer to the Labeling Hazardous Waste fact sheet for how to fill out the label. Segregate the incompatible chemicals. Store liquid wastes inside secondary containment. Close the waste container caps or lids when not in use. Contact college/department safety staff or EH&S to arrange for pickup.
- Time Limits: Arrange for pickup by safety staff within 9 months of the start date.
- **Drain Disposal of Chemicals:** Only allowed after authorization by EH&S.
- DEA-Controlled Substances & Waste: Contact EH&S at ehs@sisu.edu or (408) 924-1969 to coordinate disposal.
- Radioactive Substances & Waste: Contact EH&S to coordinate disposal.
- Empty Containers: For containers <5 gallons that previously contained non-toxic chemicals: scrape and/or rinse clean, deface labels, and place inside normal trash. Contact safety staff to coordinate the disposal of containers >5 gallons or containers for toxic chemicals. Comply with any additional guidelines from the college/department safety staff.

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Container I.D. # Person to contact re information on tag:	Beilding	Room
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### **Glass or Sharps Waste**

- . Definition: Items with rigid corners, edges, or protuberances that are capable of injuring skin or breaking waste bags.
  - o Glass waste: includes broken or unbroken glass WITHOUT biohazard contamination.
  - o Sharps waste: includes all hypodermic needles, syringes with needles, blades, scalpels, and razors. Sharps also includes biohazard-contaminated vials/tubes (<100mL liquid), glassware, glass microscope slides, pipettes, pipette tips, and serological pipettes. If unsure, assume sharp!
- Procedures: DO NOT overfill sharps/glass containers. DO NOT allow sharps/glass to stick out of the container. Carefully seal the container before contacting college/department safety staff or EH&S to arrange for pickup.
- Time Limits: Arrange for pickup by safety staff within 9 months of the fill date.
- Infectious agent contaminated sharp/glass wastes: Chemically disinfect the waste before placing in sharps container.
- · Hazardous chemical contaminated sharp/glass wastes: Place the waste inside a rigid container and label with the SJSU Hazardous Waste Label before disposal as chemical waste (see above).

### Red Bag Waste: Biohazardous Clinical or Lab Waste

- Definition: Red bag wastes include solid non-sharps, non-chemical waste, small amounts of unrecognizable animal tissues, and debris such as wipes contaminated with biohazardous material.
- Procedures: Red bags (ASTM D1922) must be contained inside and transported within a rigid, non-leaking container with a tight-fitting lid at all times. Four sides and the lid must be marked with a biohazard symbol. Double-bag liquid saturated materials to prevent leaks. DO NOT place sharps into red bags. DO NOT allow red bags to scrape against your legs or body during transitions between containers. Red bags are collected inside 40-gallon plastic bins designed for the safe transport off campus. Carefully seal the red bag and container before pickup. Do not leave waste in public corridors.
- Time Limits: Arrange for pickup by designated technical or safety staff within 1 week of the start date.

## **Universal Waste**

- . Collection bins or container labels are available upon request by contacting college/department safety staff or EH&S.
- Aerosol Cans: All aerosol cans must be recycled through SJSU. DO NOT put an aerosol can in the trash. Contact college/department safety staff or EH&S to arrange for pickup.
- 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: (4-1950) or 408-924-1950. You can also put in a pickup service request: https://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/ OR one.sjsu.edu.
- Time Limits: Arrange for pickup by safety staff, SJSU IT, or FD&O within 1 year of the start date.

#### **Normal Trash**

Standard laboratory articles (e.g., gloves, bench paper/bench pads) may be disposed via the normal trash/refuse if they are uncontaminated or only contaminated with non-hazardous chemicals. 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!











