

	<b>Guidelines for Disposal of Chemical Waste</b>	Effective	January 25, 2006
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**1. POLICY:**

**1.1** This policy applies to the guidelines that shall be used in the disposal of all chemical waste.

**2. SCOPE:**

**2.1** This procedure applies to all faculty, staff and students of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine involved in the disposal of chemical waste.

**3. PROCEDURE:**

An approved contractor must pick up all hazardous material and hazardous chemical waste.

**Empty Containers**

Empty plastic or metal chemical containers may be disposed of as ordinary laboratory trash if the chemical is not classified as an Extremely Hazardous Waste, each container is triple-rinsed, allowed to air dry, all labels are defaced, and the cap removed. Custodians are instructed not to dispose of any chemical bottles unless the bottles have been properly cleaned. At no time should full, partially full, or un-rinsed containers be thrown in the trash. All glass containers must be disposed of in a sturdy, sealed, dry lab glass box. See Safety Web "Why Didn't The Custodian Pick Up My Trash?" for more information.

Empty Extremely Hazardous Waste containers should not be triple-rinsed. These must be disposed of as hazardous waste. A list of Extremely Hazardous Waste is found on the EH&S website.

**Drain Disposal**

Drain disposal of non-hazardous materials is strictly regulated. See Safety Web "Can This Go Down the Drain?" for more information on the program.

**Carcinogens**

Any waste containing regulated carcinogens must be collected and disposed of as hazardous chemical waste. Contaminated lab ware, such as small vials and Petri dishes, should be placed in secure, double plastic bags and labeled with a hazardous waste label.

**Sharps**

All sharp objects such as needles, syringes, and broken glassware must be placed in a hard-walled container and labeled with the hazardous waste label.

### **Light Bulbs**

All fluorescent, metal halide and mercury vapor bulbs are considered hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly. Please contact the Facilities Service Manager at 662-2816 to arrange pickup of your used light bulbs.

### **Aerosol Cans**

Aerosol cans that contain or previously contained hazardous materials (such as paint or solvents) are considered hazardous waste. These aerosol cans should be labeled with the hazardous waste label and disposed of.

### **Oily Wastes**

Oil soaked rags, absorbent pads or floor sweep must be stored in metal cans with tight fitting lids, and disposed as hazardous waste.

### **Packaging and Labeling Requirements**

Materials must be properly packaged and labeled for safe transport.

- Liquids must be in leak-proof containers compatible with liquids. All containers must be securely sealed with lids. Ample headspace should be left in liquid waste bottles to allow for expansion.
- Do not use “biohazard bags” for anything other than biohazardous materials.
- Incompatible chemicals must be separated. See Safety Web, “Partial List of Incompatible Materials” for additional information.
- Waste containers must be labeled when the first drop of waste is added. Use a “Hazardous Waste” label (MS Word 6.0 format) available on the Safety Web. The proper label is dated 03/01 in the bottom right corner. Other versions of the waste label may be incomplete and should not be used. All portions of the label must be completed.
- Broken mercury thermometers should be placed in the original shipping tubes, with the ends sealed with tape and placed in securely sealed double plastic bags. If the original shipping tube is unavailable, seal the broken ends of the thermometer with tape, and place in securely sealed double plastic bags. Label the plastic bag with a completed hazardous waste label. See Safety Web “Guidelines for Mercury Spill Control” for additional information.

### **Special Wastes**

Disposal of the following special wastes should be coordinated administration.

- Acid bath pump outs
- Water-reactive, pyrophoric, organic peroxide, or other special waste
- Picric acid, other than dilute picric acid solutions such as Bouin’s fixative
- Compressed gas cylinder that cannot be returned to the vendor
- Unknown wastes

See Safety Web “Identification and Segregation of Chemical Waste” and Safety Web, “Managing Liquid Chemical Waste to Reduce Disposal Cost” for more information on managing hazardous waste.