

	<b>Why Didn't House Keeping Pick Up My Trash?</b>	Effective:	February 06, 2006
		Originator	T. J. Kendrick
		Last Updated	February 06, 2006
		Updated by	T. J. Kendrick

### 1. Purpose:

To familiarize people with the type of trash that is **NOT** removed by the house keeping staff.

### 2. Scope:

These guidelines apply to all faculty, staff and students on campus.

### 3. Procedure

Your regular trash and other waste will not be picked up by the House keeping staff if it contains hazardous materials or anything that looks like hazardous materials or if it is not properly labeled and packaged. These restrictions serve two purposes:

1. To protect house keepers and other waste handlers from exposure to hazardous materials. While waste handling procedures minimize handling of trash and require that employees wear gloves and other personal protection, exposures still may occur if laboratory waste is not disposed of properly. Employees have received puncture wounds from sharp objects or broken glass protruding through the plastic trash bags. Unknown powders and liquids loose in the regular trash have spilled or splashed onto employees during trash collection. These can be dangerous and frightening accidents.
2. If the trash contains materials that have been improperly disposed of, house keepers are protecting the campus' interests. Inappropriate materials found in the landfill or collection vehicles may result in campus personnel retrieving the material from the load, and reporting the improper disposal to other regulatory agencies.

*House keeping will not pick up the following materials:*

**MEDICAL WASTE AND BIOHAZARDS:**

- Red medical waste bags that are not properly treated. Medical/biohazardous waste in red autoclave bags must be properly labeled with autoclave tape or indicator.
- Bloodstained items in regular trash. These items must be properly bagged and sealed.
- Biological cultures in regular trash not properly bagged and autoclaved. All biological cultures must be autoclaved prior to disposal.
- Dead animals or animal parts in regular waste. Animal carcasses and parts must be bagged and placed in specific containers for off-campus disposal.
- Animal bedding and/or fur in regular waste that is not bagged and sealed. These items must be properly bagged and sealed.
- Autoclaved liquid waste. Liquid medical/biohazardous wastes should be decontaminated and disposed of via the sanitary sewer. Non-medical/biohazardous liquids can be disposed of via sanitary sewer. Do not pour any liquids in the storm drain. See [SafetyWeb #00](#), “Guidelines for the Disposal of Sharps, Biological and Medical Waste” for more information.

**CHEMICALS:**

- Empty chemical bottles or cans left for collection that are still capped, not rinsed clean and have labels that have not been defaced. All glass containers must be disposed of in a sturdy, sealed, dry lab glass box.
- Unknown powder in regular waste container that are not double-bagged and sealed.
- Liquid, including culture medium and agar, loose in regular waste or lab glass box (wet box) - not double-bagged.
- Liquid remaining in containers and centrifuge vessels.
- Any containers with hazardous waste labels. See [SafetyWeb #00](#), “Guidelines for Disposal of Chemical Waste” for more information.

### **LABORATORY GLASSWARE:**

- Lab glass in regular waste container.
- Lab glass box not sturdy, sealed, and dry (wet bottom).
- Total lab glass box weight more than 40 pounds.
- Lab glass box improperly labeled. The box must be properly marked with “clean lab glass”. See [SafetyWeb #00](#), “Guidelines for the Disposal of Sharps, Biological and Medical Waste” for more information.

### **RADIATION:**

- Radiation sign not defaced on any items or empty boxes put into the regular waste receptacle. The laboratory is responsible for ensuring that no radioactive material is improperly disposed. Once the item has been surveyed and declared clean, all labels and markings must be defaced. See [SafetyWeb #00](#), “Guidelines for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste” for more information.

### **SHARPS:**

- “Sharps” such as needles, syringes, lancets, scalpels and razor blades in regular waste container.
- “Sharps” containers must not be placed in regular waste receptacle. See [SafetyWeb #00](#), “Guidelines for the Disposal of Sharps, Biological and Medical Waste” for more information.