

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES LABORATORY WASTE DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

DOMESTIC WASTE: e.g. non-infectious substances such as waste paper and plastics that are not contaminated with chemicals, microorganisms or any other biohazardous material.

- Place in a bin (the bin contains a single layered plastic bag) labelled domestic waste.
- This waste can be disposed of in the same manner as domestic waste.
- If waste material is recyclable refer to recycling section of waste disposal procedures.

NEVER PLACE SHARPS OR BROKEN GLASS IN PLASTIC WASTE BAGS


SHARPS: e.g. syringes with needles, razor-blades, scalpel blades and small bits of broken glass

- Place in **approved** yellow sharps container (available from store).
- Container should be located adjacent to the work area.
- Only fill container to black line marked on container.
- When filled to black line, seal container, affix UOW biological waste label (available in photocopy room), take to locked yellow sulo bin in Building 35 loading dock (key available in Biological Sciences Office) or fortnightly waste collection at the back of building 15. Collection takes place every second Wednesday from 9.00am-11.00am – check OH&S website for dates:
<http://staff.uow.edu.au/ohs/workingsafely/hazardouswaste/index.html>
- Waste logs must be filled out.

GLASS: e.g. broken beakers, measuring cylinders, pasteur pipettes, bottles and flasks

- Place in labelled broken glass bin lined with a plastic garbage liner. Ensure bin has a lid. When $\frac{3}{4}$ full, tie off bin liner at the top then empty entire contents (**DO NOT PULL OUT TIED OFF BIN LINER FROM BIN**) into yellow capped labelled broken glass sulo bin in loading dock of building 35. Wear safety glasses when emptying lab glass into sulo bin
- Winchesters that have contained ONLY ethanol, methanol or acetone can be taken back to the appropriate spot in the solvent store for refilling.
- Other empty and cleaned glass winchesters and bottles can be placed in the broken glass bin. Full or empty winchesters must be carried in a winchester carrier (each lab should have one).
- Any glassware that has been contaminated with biohazardous material must be autoclaved in a metal bin before disposing of in the glass bin.

BIOLOGICAL WASTE: e.g. any material potentially contaminated with microorganisms, including human tissues, blood, body fluids

- Place in a biological waste bin lined with an autoclave bag displaying a biohazard symbol  (do not use yellow clinical waste bag).
- Waste must be autoclaved, and details of the sterilization run recorded.

- Once autoclaved, waste can be disposed of as for domestic waste. There are sulo bins outside the autoclave room for disposing autoclaved waste. Ensure Buildings and Grounds are contacted when bins need emptying.

ANIMAL WASTE:

- Animal carcasses and tissue must be placed in a yellow clinical waste bag, sealed & biological waste label affixed before freezing. Only place in yellow sulo bins in loading dock on day of waste collection. Fill out waste log. For collection dates see: <http://staff.uow.edu.au/ohs/workingsafely/hazardouswaste/index.html>
- Animals which have been used for infectious or genetic manipulation studies must be autoclaved before disposal. Once autoclaved, seal, affix biological waste label and place in freezer until waste collection day. Fill out waste log.

GMO WASTE:

- GMO waste must be decontaminated according to the instructions set out by the OGTR
- Transport of GMO waste must be carried out in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Transport of GMOs". For more information go to: <http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/ethics/genetechreview/>

GELS: e.g. agarose gels stained with ethidium bromide and polyacrylamide gels.

- Place in yellow clinical waste bag (available in the store).
- Gloves, paper towels etc that have been contaminated with trace chemicals from the gels can also be placed in the clinical waste bag.
- Seal and affix hazardous substance waste label.
- Place in locked yellow sulo bin (key available in Biological Sciences Office) in the loading dock of building 35.
- Waste log must be filled out.

CHEMICAL WASTE: e.g. solvents, aqueous solutions, dry powders, unwanted old chemicals.

- Liquids - place in strong, plastic sealable containers no larger than 5 litres. Check ChemAlert for compatibility of materials before mixing together.
- Dry chemicals should be placed in an unbreakable sealable container.
- Affix completed hazardous waste label.
- Take to waste store (open for collection every second Wednesday from 9.00am-11.00am – check OH&S website for specific dates): <http://staff.uow.edu.au/ohs/workingsafely/hazardouswaste/index.html>
- Fill out waste log.

CYTOTOXIC WASTE:

- Place in purple approved cytotoxic waste bins or bags (available in the store).
- When full, label with cytotoxic waste label and place in locked purple cytotoxic waste sulo bin on loading dock of building 35.
- Fill out waste log.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE:

- Radioactive waste should be stored in red radioactive waste bags (available in store), sealed, labelled and stored according to the University's radioactive waste guidelines available on the OH&S website at:
<http://staff.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@ohs/documents/doc/uow017051.pdf>
- Low level radioactive waste can be taken straight to the radiation store in building 41. High level radioactive waste needs to be appropriately contained and stored in the School until the radioactivity level is suitable for low level storage in building 41. See the above link for appropriate storage levels.
- Radiation stickers available from School's Radiation Safety Officer.
- Key to radiation store in building 41 available from the School's Radiation Safety Officer.
- Fill out radiation waste log.

CO-MINGLED WASTE: e.g. chemical or radiation waste that is also contaminated with microorganisms, arsenic agar plates contaminated with microorganisms

- If co-mingled waste is generated, it is necessary to be disposed of in a manner that addresses all hazards associated with the waste.
- If assistance is needed in organizing storage and disposal of such waste, contact the facility manager or the OH&S Unit.

RECYCLING

CARDBOARD:

- Cardboard boxes and packaging should be folded flat and then placed in the cardboard recycling bin situated near the steps leading into the southern end of building 41.

OFFICE PAPER:

- Place used or unwanted computer and other writing paper in the blue recycling sulo bins, situated in 35.G18 and various teaching labs.

eWASTE: e.g. old computers, monitors, keyboards and cabling

- Contact the Environment & Sustainability Unit (ESI) environment_team@uow.edu.au for disposal procedures.