

# How to Dispose of Unwanted Material at UC Berkeley

## Medical Waste

### Examples

#### Red Bag Waste

Items contaminated with infectious agents, human body fluids or blood

#### Sharps

Contaminated, broken glassware  
Hypodermic needles  
Razor blades and scalpels



### Guidelines

#### Refer to EH&S Fact Sheets:

"Managing and Disposing of Medical Waste" and  
"Handling and Disposing of Sharps"  
[ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/factandhelp.html](http://ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/factandhelp.html)

### Procedures

Try not to contaminate waste with chemicals or radioactive materials.  
Separate sharps waste from other medical and pathology wastes.  
Disinfect contaminated liquids prior to disposal.  
Autoclave red bags prior to disposal.  
Call EH&S for drop-off locations or to request a pickup.

## Unwanted Hazardous Materials

### Examples

Automotive wastes (e.g., used oil)  
Batteries  
Chemicals/mixtures  
Mercury and PCBs  
Photo processing chemicals  
Surplus paint and spent solvents  
Unlabeled/unknown chemicals



### Guidelines

#### Refer to EH&S Fact Sheets:

"Chemical Waste Recharge" and  
"Unwanted Hazardous Chemicals"  
[ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/factandhelp.html](http://ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/factandhelp.html)

### Procedures

Open a Recharge Account with EH&S.  
Label each container (EH&S provides "chemical mixture" tags).  
Segregate chemicals by compatible hazards.  
Pack compatible chemicals into boxes with packing material.  
Complete a separate Material Packing List ([mpl.ehs.berkeley.edu](http://mpl.ehs.berkeley.edu)) for each box of chemicals.  
Attach a copy of the Material Packing List to each box.  
Store box(es) in a secure area for EH&S pickup.

## Radioactive Waste

### Examples

Radioactive dry waste  
Radioactive chemical waste  
Radioactive sharps  
Radioactive biohazardous waste



### Guidelines

#### Refer to Section K of the Radiation Safety Logbook.

[ehs.berkeley.edu/whatwedo/hazmat/sectk1.html](http://ehs.berkeley.edu/whatwedo/hazmat/sectk1.html)

### Procedures

Segregate waste by isotope.  
Deposit glassware in puncture-resistant containers.  
Place dry waste in strong, clear plastic bags.  
Label each according to instructions in Section K of the Radiation Safety Logbook.  
Call EH&S for drop-off locations or to request a pickup.

## Non-hazardous Liquid Waste

### Examples

Soapy water  
Proteins, soluble fats, carbohydrates  
Nucleic acids  
Disinfected or autoclaved blood and body fluids  
Some radioactive liquids (call EH&S)  
Latex paint wash water



### Guidelines

Refer to EH&S Drain Disposal Guidelines.  
[ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/guidelines/draindisppls.html](http://ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/guidelines/draindisppls.html)

### Do Not Pour Down the Drain:

Chlorinated solvents  
Corrosive liquids (pH <5 or >10)  
Glassware rinseate (first two washes must be captured and managed as a hazardous material)  
Ignitable/flammable materials  
Reactives (cyanides, sulfides, water reactives)  
Toxic materials/heavy metals (check MSDS)  
  
Storm drains lead to Strawberry Creek and are for rainwater only.  
Be especially careful if moving chemicals between buildings. Use bottle carriers and secondary containment.

## Non-hazardous Solid Waste

### Examples

Empty hazardous materials containers (*must* follow guidelines below)  
Incandescent light bulbs  
Non-recyclable items (see below)  
Smoke detectors (remove battery)  
Uncontaminated lab glassware



### Guidelines

Refer to Refuse and Recycling web site.  
[recycle.berkeley.edu](http://recycle.berkeley.edu)  
and EH&S Fact Sheet: "Empty Containers"  
[ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/factandhelp.html](http://ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/factandhelp.html)

### Recycle:

Bottles and cans  
Food waste  
Green waste  
Paper and cardboard  
Plastic film  
Reusable items  
Styrene peanuts (packing material)  
Toner cartridges (ask for pre-paid mailing labels)  
Wood waste

### Physical Plant– Campus Recycling and Refuse Services

Tel: 643-4612  
FAX: 643-4486  
MC 1384

## Other Material Unsuitable for the Trash Can

### Examples

#### Lamps

Neon, fluorescent, mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium, high intensity discharge (HID)  
*Physical Plant–Campus Services*  
642-9348



#### University Property and Equipment

Electronics  
Lab equipment (cleaned of hazardous materials)  
Office furniture  
Refrigerators  
Items deemed appropriate for reuse or recycling  
*(There is a recycling and/or handling fee for some items.)*  
*Property Management (Excess, Surplus and Salvage)*  
642-5330

**Asbestos-Containing Material**  
*Asbestos Control Unit (PP-CS)*  
642-1680

**Construction Debris with Hazardous Components**  
*Office of Environment, Health and Safety*  
642-3073

**Old Tires**  
*City of Berkeley Solid Waste*  
981-6350

For information, contact the Office of Environment, Health & Safety 642-3073 FAX: 643-7595 [ehs.berkeley.edu](http://ehs.berkeley.edu)