

# Laboratory Waste Disposal Guide

## Chemical Waste

- **Definition:** Research-grade chemicals, hazardous consumer products, and materials/containers contaminated with toxins.
- **Procedures:** Chemical wastes must be inside compatible containers with a [SJSU Hazardous Waste Label](#) (including constituent concentrations and start date). The [Labeling Hazardous Chemical Waste](#) fact sheet describes 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.
- **DEA-Controlled Substances & Waste:** Contact EH&S at ehs@sjsu.edu or (408) 924-1969 to coordinate disposal.
- **Radioactive Substances & Waste:** Contact EH&S to coordinate disposal.
- **Drain Disposal of Chemicals:** Only allowed after authorization by EH&S.
- **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.
- **Time Limits:** Arrange for pickup by safety staff **within 9 months of the start date.**



## Glass or Sharps Waste

- **Definition:** Items with rigid corners, edges, or protuberances that are capable of injuring skin or breaking waste bags.
  - *Glass waste:* includes broken or unbroken glass WITHOUT biohazard contamination.
  - *Sharps waste:* includes all hypodermic needles, syringes with needles, blades, scalpels, and razors.
- **Procedures: If unsure, assume sharp!** DO NOT overfill waste containers. DO NOT allow sharps/glass to stick out of the container. Carefully seal the container before arranging for pickup by college/department safety staff or EH&S.
- **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).
- **Time Limits:** Arrange for pickup by safety staff **within 9 months of the fill date.**



## 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 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. Carefully seal the red bag and container before pickup. Do not leave waste in public corridors. 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.
- **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 at SJSU must be recycled. 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 (such as E-Waste with circuit boards), and light bulbs must be recycled. Contact SJSU IT for removal of electronics with sensitive data (such as computers, copiers, and electronic data storage devices). For removal of all other electronics, batteries, and bulbs, contact FD&O Service Desk at **408-924-1950**. You can also put in a FD&O pickup service request: <https://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/> OR [one.sjsu.edu](http://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 workshop or studio articles (such as gloves and bench paper) 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!**



## Need Help?

- Ask the lab/shop supervisor
- Ask the department/college safety staff
- Ask SJSU Environmental Health & Safety ehs@sjsu.edu