









## University of California, Merced Waste Disposal Flow Chart

After Hours or Emergency call UCM Police x2677 (209-228-2677)

Improper disposal down the drain, intentional evaporation, and in trash cans is against the law

	Description	Examples	Storage & Labeling	Disposal Guidelines	
	Non-Hazardous Waste	Uncontaminated solid waste; non-infectious liquids	Paper, food, clothes, uncontaminated glass, gloves, plastics, tips, tubes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solids: ordinary trash containers</li> <li>Liquids: sanitary sewer drain disposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharps: Hard-sided container ("clean" broken glass, Pasteur pipets, tips &amp; blades) ***Do Not use red containers</li> <li>Remove/Deface labels from empty, clean reagent /chemical containers</li> </ul>
	Universal & Electronic Waste	All used batteries, light bulbs, and anything with a circuit board	Fluorescent bulbs, alkaline batteries, cell phones	Container to protect waste from damage; rigid container for batteries	Contact Facilities Management or UCM Recycling
	Hazardous Chemical Waste	Any unwanted, expired, or inherently waste-like material that can be considered hazardous by the State of California	Liquid	Compatible, screw cap containers, secondary containment; closed when not in use	Use online WASTE Program – segregate according to hazard class Clean, empty containers – deface/remove labels; re-use for liquid waste if safe, otherwise, dispose in regular trash
Sharps			Sharps container NOT red (green, clear)		
Solids, other than sharps			Bag separately, label with chem + hazards		
	Radioactive Waste	Unwanted radioactive material	Gloves, LSC vials, empty containers, contaminated items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use compatible containers</li> <li>containers with screw caps (positive closures)</li> <li>secondary containment (110% of volume) for liquid waste containers</li> <li>keep outside of containers clean</li> </ul>	Label as Radioactive, with PI, Rm #, address, Date of initial collection; Segregate by half-life; segregate by form; label with any chemical or biohazard; keep lead shielding, containers, etc. separate from dry waste
	Mixed & Combined Waste	Waste with more than one category of hazard: any amount of radioactive or biohazard; Chemical: >1% ignitable, corrosive, water/air reactive, toxic; >0.1% highly toxic/carcinogenic; specifically regulated (PCB>50ppm, Cr(IV) or Ag >5ppm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Radioactive &amp; Chemical</li> <li>Radioactive &amp; Biohazard</li> <li>Chemical &amp; Biohazard</li> <li>Radioactively contaminated bricks/pigs</li> <li>Thorium nitrate</li> <li>Uranium oxalate</li> </ul>	Follow container requirements in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Radioactive</li> <li>Chemical</li> <li>Biohazards</li> </ul>	Avoid mixing waste of different types & isotopes. Eliminate hazardous characteristics when possible. Disinfect biohazardous component when practical. Use online WASTE program to tag and set place in appropriate waste accumulation area.
	Biohazardous Waste	All biologically contaminated waste that may pose a risk to human/animal health or the environment	Human/animal cell cultures Bacteria/Viruses/DNA/RNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solid: Labeled RED biohazard bags in rigid secondary containment with lid and biohazard symbols</li> <li>Liquid: Collect in labeled container</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solid: securely close bag, label with Generator's name, Bldg &amp; Room#, physical address &amp; place in red bins in med waste area.</li> <li>Liquid: treat with 10% bleach for 30 min, flush to sewer with abundant water if no chemicals or radiologicals present</li> </ul>
	Medical Waste	Waste generated as a result of production or testing of microbiologicals, research using human or animal pathogens, and research pertaining to diagnosis/treatment/immunization of humans or animals	Unrecognizable tissue, body fluid, blood or blood products (absorbed)	Labeled RED biohazard bags – same procedures as biohazardous waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same procedure as biohazardous waste</li> <li>Recognizable human tissue must be cremated.</li> </ul>
Sharps		Needles, syringes, blades	RED sharps container- "Biohazardous"	Securely close container, label with Generator's name, Bldg & Room#, physical address & place in red bins in med waste area	
Pharmaceuticals		OTC/prescription meds	Light, rigid container – "Incinerate"	Take to Student Health Center drop box	
	Animal Carcasses	Animal carcasses/tissues & unrecognizable human specimens / tissues	Animal carcasses, no biohazardous, radioactive or hazardous chemicals	Place in bag, store in freezer until disposal	Place in Pathology bin outside vivarium for incineration