









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"> Solids: ordinary trash containers Liquids: drain disposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharps: Hard-sided container ("clean" broken glass, Pasteur pipets, tips & blades) ***Do Not use red containers Remove/Deface labels from empty, clean reagent /chemical containers 	
	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 x2344 within 9 months of initial accumulation	
	Hazardous Chemical Waste	Any unwanted 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 Tag 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)	
			Solid, 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"> use compatible containers containers with screw caps (positive closures) secondary containment (110% of volume) for liquid waste containers keep outside of containers clean 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"> Radioactive & Chemical Radioactive & Biohazard Chemical & Biohazard Radioactively contaminated bricks/pigs Thorium nitrate Uranium oxalate 	Follow container requirements in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radioactive Chemical Biohazards Avoid mixing waste of different types & isotopes Eliminate hazardous characteristics when possible Disinfect Biohazardous component when practical	
	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"> Solid: Labeled RED biohazard bags in rigid secondary containment with lid and biohazard symbols Liquid: Collect in labeled container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid: securely close bag, label with Generator's name, Bldg & Room#, physical address & place in grey bins in SE1 Rm257 Liquid: treat with 10% bleach for 30 min, to sewer with abundant water if no chemicals or radiologicals present 	
	Medical Waste	Red Bag & Liquid	Unrecognizable tissue, body fluid, blood or blood products (absorbed)	Labeled RED biohazard bags – separate solid from liquid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid waste: treat with 10% bleach for 30 min, to sewer with abundant water if no chemicals or radiologicals present Solid: Label with Generator's name, Bldg & Room# & physical address. Recognizable human tissue must be cremated.
		Sharps	Needles, syringes, blades	RED sharps container- "Biohazardous"	Securely close container, label with Generator's name, Bldg & Room#, physical address & place in grey bins in SE1 Rm257
		Pharmaceuticals	OTC/prescription meds	Light, rigid container – "Incinerate"	Take to 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 pick-up for disposal	Place in RED Pathology bin outside vivarium for incineration