



# WASTE DISPOSAL PROCEDURE

Here, we will provide an overview of how to dispose waste from your lab. This is intended as a general guide and you are encouraged to contact UH Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) division for more information on specific type of waste.

**Waste containment.** Wastes must be contained in a way that isolates the hazards of the waste from the environment and personnel that may work around it. When storing waste with other waste or chemicals, it is also important to isolate waste from materials that may be incompatible- those that could cause fire, explosion, or the release of flammable or toxic vapors. In most cases, it is advisable to provide compatible secondary containment as well.

**Labeling.** Labeling serves many functions, the most important function may be that it protects you. Labels notify those working around a container of waste of its hazards, and allows individuals trained to work with the waste notice of the presence of certain materials. Labels also provide information to EHS personnel that are trained to make regulatory decisions. Finally, labels are required for all regulated wastes and chemical products at the University. You can check this [link](#) for proper label template or print the webpage when you [request](#) waste pickup.

**Disposal.** You can visit EHS [website](#) and fill out all the required information for EHS personnel to pickup your chemical waste and needles. Each labs are responsible for taking and placing the broken glass boxes and empty bottles and metal cans into the trash dumpster at the loading dock. Empty bottles and metal cans need to be aired out in a fume hood and properly defaced (see right column).

## Defacing empty container

**Before starting.** Make sure the container you are about de-face is empty (no more than one inch or one percent of residue remains on the bottom of the container) of any materials and shall be vented of vapors in a well ventilated area or a fume hood. Check for any hazard warning labels on the container and take the necessary precautions while handling these containers. Finally, check to see if your chemical contents for the container is a P-listed waste or otherwise known as “acutely toxic” (request pickup from EHS instead).

**What to cover.** Cover over the chemical name and any hazard warning labels completely. Check the picture below for an example (this is done by marker)



## More resources

- ★ [EHS waste management](#)
- ★ [Manuals, policies, and procedures](#)