

General Waste Disposal Guidelines

- Liquid/Solid chemical wastes. See hazardous waste storage procedures. Under no circumstances is hazardous waste to be disposed of illegally. Contact the Chemical Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator [CEHSC] if you are unsure of your waste's disposal requirements.
- Sharps – Sharp objects such needles, scalpels and other instruments are to be disposed of in proper sharps containers. You may request an approved container or schedule a pickup with the CEHSC.
- Glass – Glassware that is broken or could easily break is not to be thrown in the trash. You may request an approved container or schedule a pickup with the CEHSC.
- Do Not dispose of glassware or sharps containers that contain liquid or solid wastes. Transfer all contents to the appropriate disposal receptacle prior to disposal.
- Fluorescent bulbs – Spent fluorescent bulbs contain mercury and must be collected for recycling. Do not discard any bulbs in the common trash. Call UT facilities or the CEHSC to pick up fluorescent bulbs.
- Empty chemical containers – When the contents of a container have been completely exhausted, the label should be removed or unambiguously crossed out and the container can go in the appropriate receptacle (plastic and metal containers can go in the trash, glass containers can go in glass containers).

For example: Empty paint containers can go in the trash. However, if there are liquid paints present in the container, this is a hazardous waste and can not be discarded in the trash.

- Spent rechargeable and lead-acid batteries and electronics must be recycled. Contact the CEHSC for pickup and storage of these items.
- Biohazard bags are not permitted in the trash. If the agent has been rendered harmless by autoclaving, the materials in the biohazard bag are to be transferred to an appropriate heavy duty garbage bag.
- If the contents of a biohazard bag are not to be sterilized by autoclaving or can not be rendered harmless by other means, they are to be stored in a biohazard bag(s) and disposed of by a professional service provider. Contact the CEHSC to arrange such disposal.