

COMMON NON-HAZARDOUS WASTES REQUIRING PROPER DISPOSAL

EH&S prepared this list for Columbia University laboratories to reference for the most commonly generated laboratory chemical wastes that DO NOT meet the strict definition of EPA hazardous waste, but MUST be collected and managed for proper disposal through EH&S. Laboratories may utilize the “Non-Hazardous” check box on the CHEMICAL/HAZARDOUS WASTE label for these wastes.

Chemical Specific	Additional Guidance
Batteries, intact, non-leaking (alkaline, Ni-Cad, Lead Acid, Lithium button cell)	Place used, intact batteries in the nearest battery collection container. A list of campus locations may be found here https://research.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/EHS/Waste_Hazmat/BatteryRecyclingReceptacleLocations.pdf Leaking batteries or large Lead Acid batteries should be submitted a chemical waste pickup request to EH&S for disposal.
Chemically contaminated sharps (including pipette tips or pipettes) not containing P or U-listed toxic or acutely listed wastes	
Ethidium bromide solutions, electrophoresis gels and contaminated debris	
Formalin solution	Used or spent solutions only
Lamps, intact, not broken	Submit a chemical waste pickup request at https://research.columbia.edu/hazardous-materials-and-sustainability for disposal of used lamps as universal waste.
Liquid scintillation cocktails that do not have any hazardous waste characteristics.	
Mercury containing equipment, intact, not leaking such as mercury lamps, barometers and thermometers	
Paraformaldehyde solution	Used or spent solutions only
Non-toxic salts and buffers	Examples include: tissue culture media solutions, vitamins, yeast extracts, tris buffer, and EDTA solutions. Note, excludes buffers containing Coomassie blue.
Silica and celite waste	If there are trace solvents present, please contact EH&S at hazmat@columbia.edu for additional classification guidance.
Solvent contaminated rags and towels contaminated with various solvents such as trace: hexane, mineral spirits, methanol, monochloronaphthalene, and dye.	The solvent contaminated rags and towels must have no free liquids.
Used oil	Please label with a USED OIL label provided by EH&S. If you do not have these labels, please use the chemical waste label and check the nonhazardous waste box.