

Laboratories consume a significant volume of gloves through regular processes as they are a vital part of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Used gloves should be disposed of based on their level of contamination. Gloves may be classified as either contaminated or unsoiled.

## What are “Soiled Gloves”?

Soiled gloves are gloves that have been contaminated with hazardous chemicals, and/or biohazards. Here are the specific disposal guidelines based on the type of contamination:

Chemically contaminated gloves are contaminated with hazardous chemicals should be collected in solid waste containers with an orange hazardous waste label affixed. The label should state, “{chemical name(s)} contaminated gloves/solids.” Ensure the appropriate hazard characteristic is selected on the label!



*Sample waste label for contaminated gloves*

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY Environmental Health and Safety		EH&S USE ONLY
<b>CHEMICAL/HAZARDOUS WASTE</b> Fill out Sections 1-3 as soon as waste is generated. Keep lid closed when not in immediate use.		
Section 1: Hazard Characteristics (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ignitable <input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic or Health Hazard <input type="checkbox"/> Reactive <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidizer		
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hazardous    Check only if this chemical waste DOES NOT meet the EPA definition of hazardous waste.		
Section 2: Chemical Contents		
Chemical Name (No Formulas or Abbreviations)	Amount %	
Paraformaldehyde Contaminated gloves	30%	
Section 3: Lab Contact    Phone #: (212) 305-6780		
By: J. Doe    Building/Room #: ABC1234		

Biologically contaminated gloves contaminated with blood, bodily fluids, or other infectious materials should be placed in regulated medical waste bins.



*The disposal of blood contaminated gloves*

Dual contaminated gloves (chemical and biological) are contaminated with both chemical and biological materials should be collected as chemical waste because the chemical contaminant neutralizes biological hazards, except for gloves contaminated with BSL-3 biohazards. Gloves contaminated with BSL-3 biohazards must always be placed in red bags.



## Fun FAQ!



Laboratories can consider glove recycling programs for uncontaminated gloves. Several vendors offer paid services to collect and recycle these gloves. Please consult with EH&S before participating in any take back programs

## What are “Unsoiled Gloves”?

Unsoiled gloves are those that have not been contaminated with hazardous materials. These can be placed in regular municipal trash cans if used as regular PPE and no contaminants directly contacted the gloves.

By following these guidelines, laboratories can ensure the proper disposal of gloves, maintaining safety and compliance with hazardous waste regulations.

Have more questions? Reach out to EH&S at [Labsafety@columbia.edu](mailto:Labsafety@columbia.edu) or give us a call

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Manhattanville/Morningside: (212) 854 - 8749



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QR Code: EH&S Glove Guide

