Laboratory Waste Disposal Quick Guide

SHARPS DISPOSAL

- **Sharps Defined**: includes any glass, metal or plastic instruments or items that have the potential to cut or abrade skin. This includes blood vials or tubes (<100mL), broken and unbroken biologically contaminated glassware, needles, pipettes, razor blades & scalpels.
- **Sharps Container Safety**: Do NOT overfill sharps containers. Close when not in use.
- **Collection Requests for NYBC and Rolls Royce Buildings**: collected the first Thursday of every month. Contact EHS to obtain additional empty sharps containers.
- **Collection Requests for 1300 York Ave. & S-Building**: Submit an online Sharps Collection Request Form: http://www.weill.cornell.edu/ehs/forms/sharps.htm. Collections occur by request every Wednesday (with Thursdays for overflow). Request forms submitted after 5pm on Tuesday will be collected the following week. Additional empty sharps containers can be requested by utilizing the sharps collection request form.

REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE = RED BAG WASTE

- **Red Bag Waste Defined**: includes solid, non-sharps and non-chemical waste and debris contaminated with biological material.
- **Red Bag Safety**: Do NOT place sharps into red bags. Red bags must NOT be leaking or left in public corridors. Double bag when bagging saturated material.
- **Red Bag Procedures**: Red bags should be contained within a durable, leak-proof container. When full, red bags must be closed and left inside the lab for collection. Do NOT place in hallways. Use only Weill Cornell Medical College approved outer RMW red bags with the Biohazard Symbol.
- **Autoclave Red/Orange Bags**: Must be placed into College-approved outer RMW red bags after autoclaving (if required) and prior to removal from the laboratory by WCMC Housekeeping.
- **Red Bag Collection**: Collected daily by WCMC Housekeeping. Contact (646-962-9912) for additional red bags.

CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

- **Chemical Waste Defined**: all chemical wastes (unless EHS-approved for drain disposal) and empty containers of acutely-toxic chemicals must be disposed by EHS.
- **Chemical Waste Procedures**: Chemical wastes must be placed into compatible and sealable containers; labeled with a yellow Hazardous Waste label including a listing of all constituents; and stored in secondary containment in a designated Chemical Waste Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA). Containers must remain closed when not in use.
- **Collection Requests**: submit an online Chemical Collection Request Form found here: http://www.weill.cornell.edu/ehs/chemwaste. Additional Hazardous Waste labels and Chemical Waste Satellite Accumulation Area signs can also be requested.
- **Collection**: Chemical wastes are collected every Tuesday and Thursday by EHS.

DRAIN, TRASH, EMPTY CONTAINERS AND ELECTRONICS DISPOSAL

- **Drain Disposal of Chemicals**: Only EHS-approved non-hazardous liquid chemicals may be drain disposed. Refer to the EHS Waste Disposal Manual for the list of drain disposal approved non-hazardous chemicals.
- **Normal Trash**: Standard laboratory articles (e.g., gloves, pads) contaminated with non-hazardous chemicals may be disposed via the regular trash/refuse. Trash is collected every evening by WCMC Housekeeping Staff.
- **Empty Bottle Procedures**: Empty non-acutely toxic chemical bottles must be triple rinsed prior to trash disposal.
- **Electronics**: Electronic equipment containing circuit boards (e.g., computers, fax machines, printers) must be recycled. Submit work order to WCMC Engineering and Maintenance (212-746-2288) to have electronics collected.

WASTE DISPOSAL QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE

Environmental Health and Safety 646-962-7233 ehs@med.cornell.edu

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