





Quick Guide to Disposing Laboratory Waste

PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS RELATIVE TO NATURE OF WASTE

- **HEAVY:** Use smaller volume containers/packaging that accommodate weight and can be comfortably carried
- **LIGHT:** Use higher volume container/packaging
- **WET:** Use sealable, LEAK-proof container/packaging
- **DRY:** Use sealable container/packaging
- **SHARP OR POTENTIALLY SHARP WHEN BROKEN:** Use sealable PUNCTURE-proof container/packaging

		SUGGESTED CONTAINERS	COLLECTION FREQUENCY	TREATMENT/DISPOSAL OPTIONS
 GENERAL Uncontaminated packaging, office supplies, beverage containers, hand towels, boxes, glass/plastic bottles, food, cardboard, cling wrap, food wrap	● ●	THICK TRANSPARENT/BLACK BAG, SUITABLY SEALED WITH A CABLE-TIE WHEN 3/4 FULL	DETERMINED BY VOLUME AND STORAGE CAPACITY	LANDFILL
SHARPS ALSO INFECTIOUS				
Empty Glass Vials	● ● ●			
Scalpel Blades	● ● ●			
Fixed (to glass slides) Pathological Waste	● ● ●		WITHIN 30 DAYS	 SECURE PIT OR INCINERATE OR TREAT WITH APPROVED ALTERNATE TECHNOLOGY
Glass Slides or Clinical Glass	● ● ●	FOR ALL SHARPS USE PUNCTURE-PROOF, RIGID PLASTIC SHARPS CONTAINER APPROPRIATELY LABELED AND COLOUR-CODED		
Culture Stocks, Blood and/or Body Fluids Contained in Glass Test Tubes	● ● ●		IF NOT AUTOCLAVED PRIOR TO DISPOSAL, COLLECTION FREQUENCY MUST BE HIGHER	
INFECTIOUS NON-SHARPS				
Inoculation Buds	● ●			
Plastic Vials	● ●	THICK RED BAG, SUITABLY SEALED WITH A CABLE-TIE WHEN 3/4 FULL, APPROPRIATELY LABELED AND COLOUR CODED	AUTOCLAVE AND DISPOSE OF WITHIN 3 DAYS	 SECURE PIT OR INCINERATE OR TREAT WITH APPROVED ALTERNATE TECHNOLOGY
Plastic Pipettes	● ●			
Petri Dishes / Culture Plates	● ● ●	IF A SEALABLE, LEAK-PROOF, RIGID PLASTIC CONTAINER IS UNAVAILABLE, DOUBLE-BAG WITH A THICK RED BAG. SUITABLY SEAL WITH A CABLE TIE WHEN 3/4 FULL. PLACE INTO A SUITABLE FIBRE-BOARD BOX, APPROPRIATELY TAPED SHUT AND LABELED.	WITHIN 3 DAYS	
Plastic Test Tubes Containing Blood and/or Bodily Fluids	● ●		IF NOT AUTOCLAVED PRIOR TO DISPOSAL, COLLECTION FREQUENCY MUST BE HIGHER	
Fixed and Unfixed Pathological / Anatomical Waste or Human Tissue (biopsies) and Body Parts (does not include teeth or hair)	● ●	SEALABLE, LEAK-PROOF, RIGID PLASTIC CONTAINER, APPROPRIATELY LABELED AND COLOUR CODED	WITHIN 3 DAYS OR UP TO 90 DAYS IF STORED AT -2°	
CHEMICAL				
Used, Contaminated, or Unused / Expired Chemicals Including used acetone, hydrochloric acid contaminated with heavy metals, sodium hydroxide solution, reagents, etc.	→	FOR SPILL MANAGEMENT, PACKAGING, DISPOSAL AND FIRST AID GUIDELINES REFER TO THE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET (MSDS) WHICH IS, BY LAW, ISSUED WITH EVERY CHEMICAL MANUFACTURED AND SOLD ON THE MARKET. ALTERNATIVELY, CONSULT WITH SUPPLIER, MANUFACTURER, SEA (SWAZILAND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY) OR HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR.	INDEFINITE, DEPENDING ON CHEMICAL IN QUESTION	 SPECIALIZED INCINERATOR OR INERTIZE OR ENCAPSULATE or use suitable treatment in another country
MIXED WASTE				
Mixed Liquid Waste from Analyzers/Equipment containing a mixture of water, blood (infectious) and reagents (chemical) in varying proportions	→	CLEAR OR WHITE PLASTIC DRUM/BOTTLE APPROPRIATELY LABELED	DETERMINED BY VOLUMES GENERATED, STORAGE CAPACITY, AND APPROVED DISPOSAL METHOD	SEND SAMPLE TO SWAZILAND WATER SERVICES CORPORATION (SWSC) FOR TESTING AND DISPOSAL GUIDANCE OR CONSULT WITH SHLS NATIONAL SAFETY OFFICER 