What do I do with my Waste Container?

If CA Empty (and no contact with Biohazardous or Extremely Haz Chemicals)**, Please REMOVE Lid!** Always deface labels!

YES!

Is it Empty?
(no drops come out when flipped over, no powder, no goo)

NO!

If not CA Empty, Please Keep Lid On!

Then it is classified as Hazardous Waste!

A few more questions…

What does it contain?

Biohazardous Materials

Discard as biohazardous waste via red double bags (solid), red sealed containers (sharps), or 1:10 bleach dilution (liquids)!

Had contact with Biohaz materials?

YES!

Discard as solid biohazardous waste via red double bags!

Chemicals

- Container less than or equal to 50 mL: Collect all vials, tubes, samples in designated haz-waste buckets, labeled as "*Vials with Liquids*," OTP-tagged, and scheduled for pickup when full!
-Container greater than 50 mL: Use OTP to tag each large item individually for pickup!

Had contact with "Extremely Haz" chemicals?

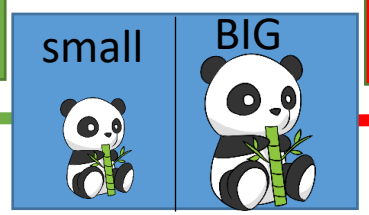
YES!

Use OTP to tag each item individually for pickup!

Applies to glass and plastic containers, pipettes, and tips!

Is it 1L or smaller?

YES!



NO!

Collect in the white cardboard box labeled "Non-Hazardous Glass and Plastic Waste"!

Then create a "Non-Hazardous Glass and Plastic Waste" OTP tag, attach the tag and a Yellow Sticker! Request pickup and initial sticker when full!

Will be sorted for recycling!

Create a "Non-Hazardous Glass and Plastic Waste" OTP tag and request pickup. Containers can be grouped together!

Non-Liquid Waste

This includes ANY powder, goo, sticky-ness, etc.! Basically, if it looks gross, but is not a liquid! This also includes non-hazardous gels and weigh boats with residual non-haz powders. Collect all containers/items in designated haz-waste bucket, labeled as "Hazardous Lab Trash," OTP-tagged, and scheduled for pickup when full!

Frequently Asked Questions…

What about pipettes and pipette tips?

Nearly all pipette tips and pipettes used in standard procedures should have no pourable liquid and be CA empty! They go in the "Non-Hazardous Glass and Plastic Waste" boxes. If they contain pourable liquid that you can't dispose of down the sink, they can be collected and given a chemical-specific OTP Tag.

What do you mean by "Extremely Hazardous" chemicals?

"Extremely Hazardous" materials are defined on Blink! It is a long list, but it does not include many chemicals used in biological labs. For example, EMS and Formaldehyde are not on the list. EtBr is considered an "Extremely Hazardous" material.

Is DNA Biohazardous? What about waste generated from "kits" used with DNA?

YES! All recombinant DNA is considered biohazardous. Therefore, any tube or pipette tip that has been in contact with recombinant DNA should be discarded as biohazardous waste! See supplemental sheet for information regarding waste from kits!

What about an empty plastic tube/plate that fell on the floor? What about a bottle of NaCl or Bleach? Can it go in the regular trash?

NO. Unfortunately, it can't go in the regular trash or recycling at this time due to perception issues with these sorts of materials. They could be perceived as hazardous by anyone looking through the dumpsters. These should be discarded in the white, tall cardboard boxes labelled "Non-Hazardous Glass and Plastic Waste"! They will be sorted for recycling!

How do we dispose of sharps according to this new plan?

Sharps can be categorized as the following: Biohazardous, Non-Hazardous, Chemically Contaminated, Extremely Haz Contaminated. Please see the Sharps Flow Chart for details!

How do we dispose of broken glass fly vials?

Glass fly vials are considered biohazardous sharps if they have flies/pupae/larvae in them. Please see the Fly Vials Flow Chart for details!

Syringes that don't have needles can go in the white cardboard boxes, right?

NO. Syringes, even those without needles, are considered Medical Waste. On our campus, it is best to discard Medical Waste as Biohazardous Waste. Even if the syringe is plastic and does not have a needle, it should be discarded in the red Biohazardous sharps rigid containers.

Can commercial non-hazardous/non-lab plastic containers go in the recycling bin?

Yes! This includes items like dish soap containers and other non-hazardous cleaning supplies!

Do all gloves need to go into the "Hazardous Lab Trash"?

NO! Only gloves that are grossly chemically contaminated need to go in the "Hazardous Lab Trash". Gloves contaminated with Biohazardous material go in the solid Biohazardous trash receptacles. Gloves contaminated with an "Extremely Hazardous" material must be tagged using the OTP and picked up as hazardous waste.

What CAN go in our lab's regular trash cans and recycling bins?

Trash: Gloves, Paper Towels, Non-Recyclable Packing Material, Non-Recyclable Styrofoam, Uncontaminated Parafilm
Recycle Can: Paper, Packing Materials, Cardboard, Pipette Tip Racks/Boxes, Commercial/Non-lab plastic bottles, Clean Aluminum Foil

Can we make "Non-Hazardous Plastic" cardboard boxes still?

YES! These boxes are not provided by EH&S. They must have a liner and a Green Sticker. When full, seal the box, initial the sticker, and the custodial staff will discard the box.

If a weigh boat has a small amount of non-hazardous powder residue (like NaCl), can it go in the regular trash or the white cardboard boxes?

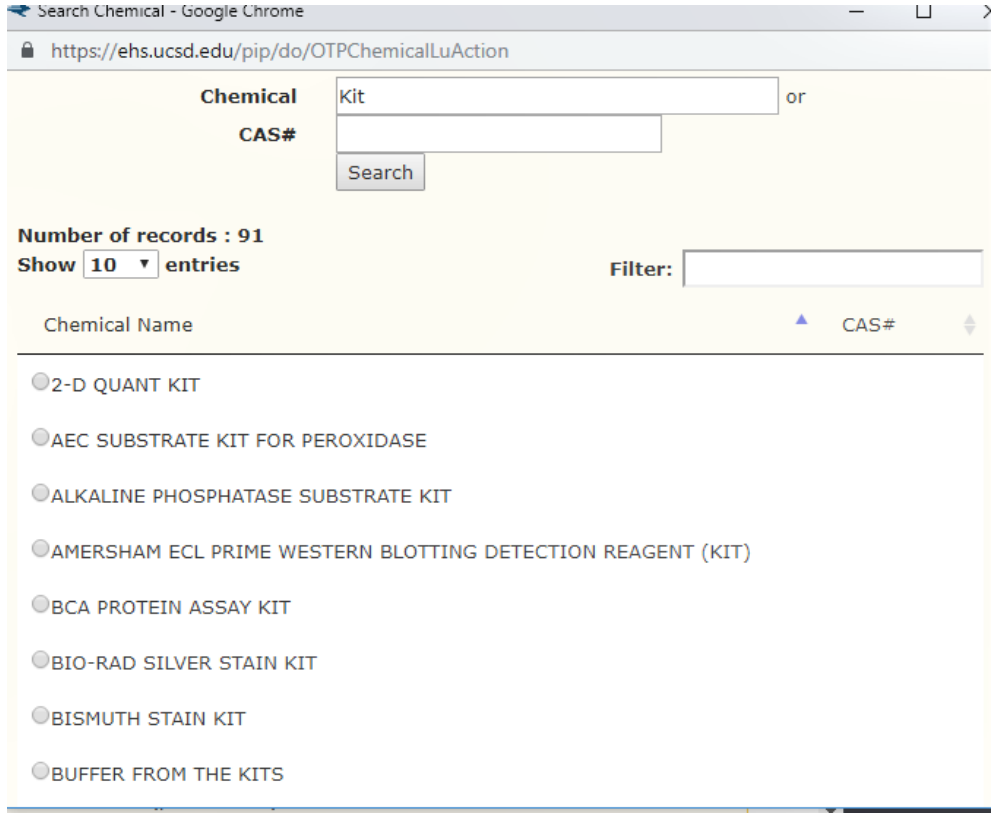
NO! Any solid material residue on a weigh boat means it is not California Empty. Discard in the bucket labeled "Hazardous Lab Trash".

Can a Razor Blade go in the White cardboard boxes? What about fluorescent light bulbs?

NO! Razor Blades must be discarded as the appropriate sharp. Fluorescent light bulbs are considered hazardous waste and should be individually OTP tagged.

What about Waste from Kits (Qiagen/Invitrogen/Promega/Monarch/Zymo/etc.)?

- Currently, it is fair to assume that during the process of using these kits that all DNA/biological material is inactivated
  - This is subject to change!
- **DO NOT add Bleach to the waste generated from these kits**!
  - Many of the buffers react with Bleach generating toxic gases!
- Waste should be collected as Hazardous Waste as some of the buffers have Acetic Acid
- Waste should be classified as Chemical Waste
- Use the OTP to generate a waste tag when you begin accumulating the waste
  - Many of these kits are already in the OTP system!
  - Search “Kit” to see the kits that are already registered.
  - Request to add your kit if you do not see it there!
  - Contact HAZWASTE@ucsd.edu for more information or clarification!



What do I do with Sharps?

These items are considered medical waste!

Due to safety concerns this includes all needles, lancets, syringes (glass and plastic), and plastic syringe-like plungers!

Is it a Needle/Lancet/Syringe?

YES!

NO!

Discard as biohazardous SHARPS waste in red, rigid, biohazardous sharps containers!

A few more questions…

Had contact with "Extremely Haz" chemicals?

YES!

Use OTP to tag each item individually for pickup!

NO!

Had contact with **any** chemicals?

YES!

Collect in sharps container labeled "Chemically Contaminated Sharps," OTP-tagged, and schedule for pickup when full!

NO!

Collect in container labeled "Non-Hazardous" Sharps. When full, containers can be sealed shut and discarded in regular trash!

What do I do with Non-Reusable Fly Vials?

Does it have flies/pupae/larvae?

YES!

Freeze for at least 24hrs to kill the flies!

NO!

Collect in hazardous-waste buckets, labeled as "*Hazardous Lab Trash*," OTP-tagged, and scheduled for pickup when full!

A few more questions…

Is it a Plastic Vial?

YES!

Discard as solid biohazardous waste in red double bags inside a rigid container!

NO!

Is it a Glass Vial?

YES!

Discard as biohazardous SHARPS waste in red, rigid, biohazardous sharps containers!