

What do I do with my waste materials?

The following is a reference list for the handling and disposal of some common waste materials. For more detailed information and to review the chemical disposal procedures see additional info on the EHS website or contact EHS.

Aerosol Cans	EHS collects all unwanted or unusable aerosol cans. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Animal Research-related Material	Follow the EHS Guide: Human and Animal Tissue Disposal Options .
Appliances	Used appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, etc. must be decontaminated by the user and approved by EHS prior to disposal through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities Services (cooling appliances with Freon, such as refrigerators, centrifuges, etc.) • Information Technology (non-cooling appliances, such as ovens, computers, etc.)
Art Supplies	Many art supplies contain solvents and/or heavy metals. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Audio/Visual Materials	Large volumes of audio/visual materials such as video tape, movie film and reel to reel tape may often be reclaimed or recycled. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Ballasts	Light ballasts may contain PCBs or other toxic components. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Batteries	Alkaline batteries, free of mercury, are to be discarded in the trash. However, all rechargeable, lead acid, and automotive batteries must be recycled. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Biohazardous Materials	Potentially infectious, bio-hazardous or genetically modified plant/animal tissues must be treated prior to disposal. See Safe Disposal of Hazardous Biological Waste .
Cell Phones and PDAs	See Computers and Electronics below.
Chemicals	EHS collects all unwanted chemicals. Many of these chemicals can be recycled for use by other university personnel through our Chemical Redistribution Program . It is important to collect different or incompatible waste chemicals into separate containers. The mixing of incompatible substances could cause a serious hazard to lab or EHS personnel. Generators of chemical waste and unwanted chemicals must follow specific requirements regarding the management of waste/unwanted containers. See additional info in other EHS courses or on the EHS website.
Cleaning Supplies	Unwanted cleaners must not be poured down drains. Use these products for their intended purposes or submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Computers and Electronics	KU Information Technology provides a way for KU departments to securely and responsibly recycle obsolete, unused or unwanted electronic equipment or data storage devices. http://technology.ku.edu/ewaste
Cylinders and Propane Tanks	EHS collects <u>all</u> cylinders and propane tanks for recycling or disposal, except those that may be returned to the manufacturer. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Drugs and Controlled Substances	The Drug Enforcement Agency license holder is responsible for the security, return, or destruction of their controlled substances. Contact EHS (864-0224) for guidance and assistance in destruction of your controlled substances.
Empty Chemical Containers	If the empty container held a compressed gas, soluble cyanide salt, or a chemical on the Acutely Toxic list , then it must be collected by EHS for disposal. Otherwise, it may be disposed of in the building dumpster after defacing all labels. Rinsing is not necessary.
Film, Negatives and Other Screens used for Imaging	Expired or unused film may contain silver. Bulk film should be reclaimed through a silver recovery company or EHS.
Fluorescent Bulbs and High Pressure Lamps	These items contain mercury. All university fluorescent bulbs/lamps must be recycled. Bulbs must be packaged in boxes or cardboard tubes to prevent breakage and contain the bulb if broken. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.

Glass	Broken and intact glass must be placed in a glass disposal box or a lined cardboard box. When full, tape the box shut and place in your building dumpster.
Human Tissue	Follow the EHS Guide: Human and Animal Tissue Disposal Options .
Ink Cartridges and Toner	Ink and toner cartridges should be recycled through KU Recycling, call 864-2855 for more information.
Laboratory Equipment	Used laboratory equipment must be decontaminated by the user and approved by EHS prior to disposal through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities Services (cooling appliances with Freon, such as refrigerators, centrifuges, etc.) • Information Technology (non-cooling appliances, such as ovens, computers, etc.)
Laboratory Glassware	Place laboratory glassware in a glass disposal box or similar lined cardboard box. When full, tape the box shut, and place in your building dumpster.
Mercury/Mercury-containing Items	EHS will collect all metallic mercury or intact or broken mercury-containing items. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal. Intact mercury thermometers can be traded for spirit thermometers through EHS.
Oil, Oil Filters, and Oil-filled Equipment	EHS collects used oil and oil filters for recycling. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Paints	EHS collects all unwanted paints and paint products. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Paper, Plastic, and Cardboard	Paper, plastic, and cardboard should be recycled through KU Recycling in designated bins or areas. For sorting guidelines, visit http://www.recycle.ku.edu/sorting-guidelines .
Pesticides	EHS collects unwanted pesticides and rinsate. Submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal.
Radioactive Materials, Equipment and Lasers	EHS must authorize all uses of radiation devices and radiochemicals. Please contact the Radiation Safety Officer at 4-2851.
Regular Trash	Normal trash such as non-paper items, food, and plastic may be discarded in trash receptacles or building dumpsters, but should be recycled whenever possible.
Scrap Metal	Scrap metal should be recycled when possible. Contact EHS for assistance.
Sharps, Pseudo-sharps, Syringes and Needles	Sharps include any type of material which could readily puncture or cut the skin of an individual when encountered (i.e. needles, pipette tips, metal shavings, etc.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radioisotope contamination: Sharps used for radioisotope studies are discarded as restricted waste in properly designated containers for radioactive waste. Call Radiation Safety, 864-2851. • Chemical contamination: require disposal through EHS, submit a waste removal request to EHS for disposal. • Biological contamination or non-contaminated: See the EHS Guide: Requirements for Sharps Disposal.
Smoke Detectors	Building Smoke Detectors are replaced by Facilities Services. Specific standard procedures are followed for disposal.
Spill Clean-up Material	This includes contaminated PPE, Kim-wipes, paper towels, etc. used to clean chemicals off of a surface. This material must be collected in a container or bag that is compatible with the contents and will not degrade from contact with the material within it. All chemicals involved must be tracked and a list provided to EHS for disposal.
Unknown Chemicals	All containers are required by University policy and procedures to be labeled as to their contents and hazards. Therefore, a container of unknowns should never happen. However, should a user discover containers of unknown contents, the user must either identify the contents immediately or notify EHS for their removal. Containers of unknown contents are considered to be hazardous waste and must be marked with the words "Hazardous Waste." Note that the unit may be held responsible for payment of any necessary analytical costs to identify the material.