

General Waste

Material free of any apparent or actual pathological/infectious, radioactive, or hazardous chemical contamination. Note: Some laboratory materials may be decontaminated and then discarded as general waste.

[Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention Guidance](#)

MOST GENERAL WASTE CAN BE RECYCLED!

- Decontaminated media or labware
- Pyrex glassware (other glassware can typically be recycled)
- Contaminated animal bedding
- Items heavily covered in food residue

- NEVER use an MPW box to dispose of general waste or confidential materials.
- Items that contain chemical, radioactive materials, or the actual or perceived presence of pathogenic agents-
- “Sharps” (needles, syringes, scalpel blades, etc.). (see [Laboratory Waste Disposal Matrix](#))
- Empty 5 gallon (or larger) plastic or metal containers, such as those used for solvents or paint. (see [Empty Chemical Bottles Recycling Program](#))

Examples of General Waste That Cannot Be Recycled

Materials Which Are NOT General Waste

Waste Management Procedures

- **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – think recycling first before you trash it!**
- Strive for **ZERO WASTE** where possible.

- Place non-recyclable uncontaminated or decontaminated labware in the Disposable Labware & Broken Glass box (NSN-811-500-N19-2305)
- Before disposal, close box and secure with filament tape
- Glassware/labware that cannot readily be chemically decontaminated should be autoclaved prior to disposal as general waste



- Before disposal, cell culture media must be decontaminated (see [MPW Section](#) for instructions) either by steam autoclave or adding disinfectant directly to vessel or treating pooled spent media
- Decontaminated media must be collected as chemical waste and called for pick up by Chemical Waste Services
- Dispose of empty, decontaminated cell culture vessels in the Disposable Labware & Broken Glass box

- Autoclave (see [MPW Section](#)), then dispose of the bag and solid media into a Disposable Labware & Broken Glass box

- Most contaminated bedding may be decontaminated by autoclaving and disposed of as general waste
- Contaminated animal bedding which cannot be decontaminated by autoclaving must be disposed of as MPW

Materials Which Are NOT General Waste

Glass/Plastic Labware

Liquid Culture Media

Solid Media

Animal Bedding

Waste Collection and Disposal Supplies

Stock Number	Description	Size/Unit	Usage
NSN-8105-00-L04-2610	Bag closures, plastic bag ties	12" long	Seal bags w/animal carcass/bedding
NSN-6530-01-282-6378	Bag, biohazard autoclave w/process indicator	small 8" X 12"	Autoclave MPW/media/labware
NSN-6530-01-142-2255	Bag, biohazard autoclave w/process indicator	medium 19" X 23"	Autoclave MPW/media/labware
NSN-6530-01-218-4644	Bag, biohazard autoclave w/process indicator	large 25" X 35"	Autoclave MPW/media/labware
NSN-8105-01-195-8730	Bag, clear plastic	15" X 24"	Collect chemically contaminated solids
NSN-8115-00-L04-0680	MPW Box Kit (5 boxes, 10 bags, ties)	Kit, 5 boxes	MPW collection and disposal
NSN-8105-01-L04-0681	Replacement bags for MPW boxes, 25-count	19" X 44"	Animal carcasses/tissue/bedding
NSN-8105-00-N20-4150	Replacement bags for MPW boxes, 100-count	37" X 45"	Animal carcasses/tissue/bedding
NSN-8115-00-N19-2305	Box, disposable labware/broken glass	floor	Disposable labware and broken glass
NSN-6530-01-294-2865	Container, puncture-resistant	small	Collect sharps for disposal
NSN-6530-01-274-5099	Container, puncture-resistant	medium	Collect sharps for disposal
NSN-7690-00-833-0318	Label, Caution – radioactive material tape	roll	Identify radioactive material
NSN-7930-00-N20-3088	Sodium hypochlorite (Mercury Free bleach)	1 gal	Disinfect/inactivate
NSN-7530-00-L07-5985	Tag, Chemical Waste	pack of 10	Identify chemical waste
NSN-7530-00-L07-8835	Tag, Radioactive Waste Pick-up Receipt	Pack of 25	Identify radioactive waste
NSN-7510-00-290-8036	Tape, filament	roll	Close waste bags/seal boxes

Available from Radioactive Waste Service (301) 496-4451

Description	Size/Unit	Usage
Stepcan	One size	Collect solid radioactive waste
Carboy plastic container	2/5 gallon	Collect aqueous radioactive waste
Mixed waste container	4/10/20 liter	Collect liquid mixed waste

Available from Chemical Waste Disposal Service (301) 496-4710

Solvent safety cans	3/5 gallon	Collect flammable chemical waste
Liquid waste container	3/5 gallon	Collect chemical waste
Plastic waste pail	5 gallon	Collect solid gels
Funnel with lid closure	3/5 gallon	3/5 gallon
Secondary containment pan rectangular	18" X 26"	Collect spills and overfills
Secondary containment pan round	17" diameter	Collect spills and overfills
Empty chemical bottle tote rectangular	19"x16"x15.5"	Collect empty chemical bottles
Empty chemical bottle tote rectangular	19.5"x15.5"x13"	Collect empty chemical bottles
Empty chemical bottle tote upright	15.25"x11"x19.9"	Collect empty chemical bottles

Available from Recycling Service (301) 402-6349

Interior metal collection container for recycling "All Paper Products"	37" X 15" X 15"	Collect all paper products, for corridors or office suites
Interior metal collection container for recycling "Commingled Materials"	37" X 15" X 15"	Collect commingled materials, for corridors or office suites
Interior metal collection container for recycling "Toner/Ink Jet Cartridges"	37" X 15" X 15"	Collect Toner/Ink Jet, copier cartridges, for corridors or office suites
Interior metal collection container for recycling "Pipette Tip Racks"	37" X 15" X 15"	Collect pipette tip racks
Large cardboard collection container for paper recycling in copy rooms	30" X 24" X 20"	Collect all paper products
30 cubic yard dumpster for construction debris recycling	30 yard open dumpster	Collected mixed construction debris for building renovation projects

Hamper for office clean out



Collect all paper products from office clean out

