**Discarding Lab Waste Review Sheet**

**What you need to know in order to dispose of a material or waste:**

* Chemical composition?
* Hazardous or nonhazardous?
* Radioactive?
* Biohazard?
* Can it be recycled?

**Acids:** Small amounts can be neutralized and poured down the drain with large amounts of water. Large amounts are handled as hazardous chemical waste.

**Aluminum Foil:** Recycle

**Bacteria:** Biohazard waste

**Bases:** Small amounts can be neutralized and poured down the drain with large amounts of water. Large amounts are handled as hazardous chemical waste.

**Biohazard waste:** Anything derived from a living thing or was in contact with living things.

* Liquid: add 10% bleach, sit for 30 minutes and pour down sink
* Dry: bins with biohazard bags

**Buffers:** Most can be poured down the sink. See “Chemical Waste Hazardous” for exceptions

**Cells:** Biohazard waste

**Chemical waste- hazardous:** Do not mix chemicals. If mixing is required, it should be in small volumes of solvents from the same category. All bottles must be labeled with the full chemical name, % of mixture, waste volume, location and your initials. Use the correct bottle type. Check with your instructor for proper storage and they will arrange for commercial pick up. See book for list of hazardous chemicals.

**Chemical Waste- nonhazardous:** Dispose in trash if a solid. Pour liquids down the sink followed by large amounts of water. See book for list of nonhazardous chemicals.

**DNA:** Biohazard waste.

**Dry ice:** Allow to evaporate in container. Never pour down the sink as it can freeze the pipes.

**Gels:** Biohazard waste

**Glass:** Glass disposal boxes

**Gloves:**  If used with biohazard materials, in biohazard waste. Otherwise, in regular trash.

**Needles:** Sharps disposal box

**Paper:** Recycling bin

**Phenol and phenol containing solutions:** Dispose of as hazardous chemical.

**Photographic fixer, developer, stop bath:** Diluted materials can be poured down the sink.

**Pipettes:** Biohazard waste

**Protein, cell extracts:** Biohazard waste

**Radioactive waste:** We will not be dealing with any radioactive materials in this laboratory.

**RNA:** Biohazard waste.

**Serum:** Biohazard waste.

**Sharps:** All Pasteur Pipettes, needles, syringes with needles, automatic pipette tips, glass slides and coverslips, razor blades and scalpels in sharps disposal box.

**Solvents:** Do not pour hazardous chemical down the sink! Use a waste container with a volume close to the waste volume. Do not combine solvents! Label waste containers.

**Supernatants:** If from cells, viruses or bacteria, it is biohazard waste. Otherwise, use 10% bleach and pour down sink and flush with large amounts of water.

**Syringes:** With attached needle, biohazard sharps container. If alone, solid biohazard waste container.

**Thermometers:** Do not dispose of mercury thermometers in the glass boxes. We do not have mercury thermometers in the laboratory. In the case where they are used, broken mercury thermometers need to be placed in a sealed box and an instructor will call for commercial pick up.

**Tips:** Sharps disposal box

**Trash:** Anything nonrecycable, nonradioactive, nonbiohazard, nonsharp, or nonhazardous.

**Volatile chemicals:** Dispose of according to chemical composition. Do not allow them to evaporate.