

UHCL Laboratory Waste Streams						
Waste Category	Type	Examples (not all inclusive)	Container Type	Pick-Up Location	Handling	Comments
General Trash	General Non-Hazardous, Trash	Uncontaminated Gloves, test papers, packaging material, triple rinsed plastic funnels, containers, tubes, and flasks; paper towels, fly media and assay plates, empty buckets	Standard black trash bag inside trash can, or trash bag outside of can with the "TRASH" sticker adhered on it.	Within Laboratory	Removed by custodians twice a week, and upon request.	General Trash is NOT Biohazardous, Chemicals, Chemical residues, Radioactive, nor considered Sharps (Broken glass or sharp plastics, scalpel, needles, syringes, etc.) All Plastics that have contained chemicals must be triple-rinsed before placing in trash! Custodial services will not pick up loose bags without the "TRASH" sticker adhered to it. Contaminated materials should be placed in solid waste bins.
Laboratory Glass, Pipettes & Burettes	Non-Broken Glass	Triple-rinsed and cleaned glassware, tubes, beakers, flasks, jars, amber bottles, pasteur pipettes, tips, etc.	Manufactured "BROKEN GLASS" box, or in tied plastic bag within a cardboard box/container that is closed and sealed shut with tape, labeled "BROKEN GLASS" or "GLASS TRASH"	Adjacent to laboratory entrance	Removed by custodians twice a week, and upon request.	All Plastic & Glass that contained chemicals must be triple-rinsed before placing in designated waste box. Custodial service will not pick up waste boxes if they are unsealed, overfilled, or not labeled! Use "TRASH" sticker to signify removal inside your laboratory.
	Broken Glass & Glass Pipettes					
	Plastic Pipettes	Pipettes (Medium)	Computer or cardboard box must be closed and sealed shut with tape, labeled "PLASTIC PIPETTES"			
	Plastic Burettes (Large)	Burettes (Large)	Manufactured box labeled "BURETTE TRASH." Box must be closed and sealed shut with tape.			
Regulated Medical Waste	Sharps (and Sharp Material)	Syringes, needles, scalpels, blades, broken glass, plastic pipettes	Certified medical plastic waste container for sharps.	Biology labs, Health Clinic, Animal Care	Removed by Environmental, Health and Safety	Autoclaved biology waste must be labeled and treated, and reused biological materials must be disinfected per the training and procedures. Biological and Medical sharps are handled by a contracted Biohazardous waste treatment company.
	Other Medical (or Biological) waste	Contaminated glass, slides, cover slips, experimentally cultured stocks, plates, etc.	Standard medical biohazard waste box with red biohazard bag liner	Biology labs, Health Clinic, Animal Care	Autoclave, or Removed by Environmental, Health and Safety	
Laboratory Chemical Waste (NO Chemical waste in trash or poured in sinks)	Hazardous Chemical Waste	Solvents, acids or bases with pH ≤ 2 , and ≥ 12.5 , Liquids with low flash point, heavy metals, etc.	Compatible Glass, or metal container in good condition with appropriate lid closed tight. Chemicals can be in original chemical container, newly purchased chemical container, or a container that has been rinsed cleaned and reused for waste material that is compatible with the original contents.	Waste Shelf or other suitable waste location as designated by EH&S and/or faculty	Removed by Environmental, Health and Safety	Liquid or Solid Chemical Hazardous Waste that exhibit one or more characteristics of Flammability, Reactivity, Corrosivity, or Toxicity (EPA's D,P,&U lists). The containers holding the chemical(s) must be labeled with a "HAZARDOUS WASTE" sticker, dated when it was finished using, and placed on the waste shelf with a contact name and specific contents. If the container does not have the original chemical details on the label, a list of the contents (no abbreviations), and percentage of product must be written on it.
	Highly Hazardous Chemicals	All cylinders, peroxides, pyrophorics, air & water reactive material, etc.			May need stabilized by High HazMat team prior to removal by Environmental, Health and Safety	
Lecture Bottles	Small Gas Cylinders	lecture bottles, small cylinders, calibration gases	Enclosed, pressurized containers, which may still contain pressure even when considered "empty", including lecture bottles and aerosol cans.	Waste Shelf or other suitable location as designated by EH&S and/or faculty	Removed by Environmental, Health and Safety	Containers must be in good condition, contents labeled, regulator removed, and secured upright or laid in a box or waste storage bin to prevent damage to the valve and possible injury.

For Questions or Assistance with waste handling, call Environmental Health & Safety at x.2106