

# Hazard Determination of Laboratory Gloves, Wipes, Towels and Rags

Audience: University of Connecticut Laboratories  
Campus Covered: All  
EHS Contact: Denis Shannon, (860) 486-3115  
Reg. Citations: Title 40 CFR and University Policy  
Last Revised: November 9, 2006

---

Identification – General use (non-biological, non-radiological) gloves, Kim-wipes, paper towels, rags, pads that have been used with organic solvents. These items will be referred to as 'laboratory debris'.

All scientists that generate laboratory debris must make a hazard determination on that debris, as to whether it meets the criteria of Hazardous Waste. All lab debris that has been saturated with solvents will be managed as Hazardous Waste. If you can squeeze even one drop of solvent from the lab debris than the debris is saturated and must be managed as a Hazardous Waste.

Lab debris used with solvents that have been listed as Toxic by the US EPA must be collected, stored and managed as Hazardous Waste. The following is a partial listing of Toxic solvents;

Halogenated Solvents

Tetrachloroethylene  
Methylene Chloride  
1,1,1-Trichloroethane  
1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-Trifluoroethane  
Ortho-Dichlorobenzene  
Trichlorofluoromethane  
2-Trichloroethane

Non-Halogenated Solvents

Toluene  
Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK)  
Carbon Disulfide  
Isobutanol  
Pyridine  
Benzene  
2-Ethoxyethanol  
2-Nitropropane

If the lab debris generated in your laboratory has not been used with Toxic solvents or is not saturated with any organic solvent than the normal trash may be the proper receptacle for disposal. If you feel that the normal trash is not an appropriate route for your contaminated lab debris (because the contaminant possesses a high degree of toxicity), package according to Chemical Waste Disposal Manual. The Department of Environmental Health & Safety staff will evaluate the lab debris for its appropriate route of disposal.

- All lab debris contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) must be given to Environmental Health & Safety for disposal.
- Debris from a chemical spill must be managed as "Hazardous Waste" and given to Environmental Health & Safety for disposal.
- Empty containers are not managed in the same manner as lab debris. See the Empty Chemical Container Fact Sheet for proper disposal.