

Labware Contaminated with Chemicals

Audience: University of Connecticut Laboratories

Campus Covered: All

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Reg. Citations: 40 CFR and University Policy

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All scientists who generate laboratory debris must make a hazard determination on that debris, as to whether it meets the criteria of "Hazardous Waste". Gloves (used as personal protective equipment) & towels, which have incidental contact with virgin solvent are not considered "Hazardous Waste". If the glove or towel was used in a procedure whereby the towel was first soaked in solvent, then used to clean a surface/part etc., then the glove and towel would be considered contaminated, and the solvent would be considered "spent", and would be determined as "Hazardous Waste". In the first case, normal trash is the proper receptacle, and in the latter, the debris should be placed in a container or bag, and one should follow procedure for hazardous waste management.

If you feel that the normal trash is not an appropriate route for your contaminated labware (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 labware for its appropriate route of disposal.

- All labware 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 labware. See the Empty Chemical Container Fact Sheet for proper disposal.