

# TAMU-CC / Lab Chemical Waste Disposal SOP

**\*\* MOST IMPORTANT \*\*\* Dilution is NOT the solution to pollution!!! \*\***

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- Do not dump ANY chemicals down the sink or into the trash without the approval from a Lab Coordinator.
  - Handle all chemicals with respect and caution.
  - Have a good understanding of the chemicals you are working with.
  - Following the rules help protect you, our students, and the environment!
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1. **Before** the lab experiment begins, know what waste products will be generated. This will help you prepare for their proper disposal ahead of time.
  2. Obtain clean, dry, and empty containers for the wastes. Remove any old labeling completely!
  3. Place a CHEMICAL WASTE LABEL on the front of the container. You can obtain a waste container and a label from the Lab Coordinator. These are usually attached with a zip-tie around the neck of the container.
  4. Fill out the label COMPLETELY. (An example of a label for a waste container is at the bottom of this page.)
  5. Do not mix liquid and solid wastes! Solid waste should be placed in a separate container, unless it is a precipitate from a liquid. **Solid waste does not include paper, filters, plastic tips, or glass pipettes.** These items can go into the trash or glass deposit box.
  6. Liquid wastes should **NOT** be mixed unless they are of the same type (i.e. aqueous, organic [solvent], heavy metal, etc.) **If you are unsure, DON'T MIX!** Simply label properly, and take to the lab coordinator.
  7. If you discover an "UNKNOWN" or otherwise unlabeled container, alert the lab coordinator. These unknowns may be placed in the satellite container, but must be labeled with all other information.
  8. Fill waste containers up to just below the neck of the bottle. **DO NOT OVERFILL TO THE TOP!!!** Watch the level in the **amber bottles** carefully. Once an individual container is full or once the lab day is completed, place the bottle in the **satellite container** before leaving the lab.
  9. Use the **satellite container** stations to temporarily store containers with chemical wastes. **DO NOT STORE THESE WASTES UNDER THE FUME HOOD!!!**
  10. If you have old chemicals in their original containers, add a chemical waste label that includes the requested information (you do not have to remove the old label in this case). Then take the chemical(s) to the lab coordinator for disposal.
  11. Biological Wastes are not permitted inside the satellite containers. **DO NOT MIX or STORE CHEMICAL WITH BIOLOGICAL WASTES!**

FINALLY...

12. The Lab Coordinator will contact Environmental, Health & Safety to schedule a pick up for the waste chemicals.