

LAB

NOTES

Safety Newsletter for Lab Workers

UCSD Environment, Health & Safety Office

Online Waste Tag Program

EH&S has launched a new online tag program (OTP) to:

- Print non-radioactive hazardous waste tags
- Track container storage time
- Request pickup

Get an OTP User Name and Password

To get started you will need a user name and password. Contact the EH&S Environmental Management Facility at (858) 534-2753, or e-mail hazwaste@ucsd.edu. Then say good-bye to the old tags and waste collection request forms! Use the online tag program at <http://otp.ucop.edu>.

Advantages of OTP

UCSD conducted a self-audit in 2001 of our hazardous waste handling procedures, as requested by the Environmental Protection Agency (Lab Notes No. 54, Jan/Feb 2002: http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/news/labnotes/pdf/ln_jf02.pdf). Most hazardous waste storage and disposal noncompliance issues discovered during the audit were associated with waste tags. OTP improves waste tagging compliance and streamlines the collection process with these **advantages for the waste generator**:

- No more writing tags by hand. OTP automatically fills in generator identification and location information. Enter the waste details, print the tag on plain paper, and then attach it to your container using an EH&S-provided, adhesive-backed, plastic envelope.
- Create “waste profiles” for routinely generated waste. When a routine

type of waste is generated, click on “Create new tag from profile,” enter the container size, and OTP automatically fills in the waste characteristics for you.

- OTP corrects common errors of omission so every tag you print has complete information.
- Collection requests are easy: login to OTP and click on the containers you want picked up.
- OTP begins tracking waste accumulation time when you initiate a new tag. OTP will automatically e-mail you when the waste has been accumulating for greater than 90 days, and notify EH&S to collect the waste from your facilities.

Free Biohazard Waste Containers

Plastic tissue culture pipettes cannot be disposed of loosely in the regular trash, or bagged and then thrown in the trash.



There’s a new option for bio-hazardous waste disposal available to labs on the main campus and SIO. Gray plastic waste containers in two sizes (22 gallon and 44 gallon) are available upon request from the EH&S Environmental Management Facility (EMF). The containers are on wheels, have a lid, and are labeled BIOHAZARD.

San Diego County regulators consider plastic pipettes “piercing objects,” which means they’re capable of puncturing plastic bags. They must be placed in rigid, puncture-proof containers.

In the past EH&S has recommended storing used biohazardous pipettes for disposal in either a sharps container or a cardboard box lined with a red biohazard bag. BIOHAZARD containers now provide a large, free

continued on back ... see Biohazard Waste Containers



OTC tag ready for the container

Biohazard Waste Containers ... cont.

storage container for tissue culture pipettes and other biohazardous waste. Labs still must purchase red biohazard bags to line containers (two bags per container).

When the BIOHAZARD container is full, tie off the two inner liners and wheel the container to the biohazardous waste consolidation area for your floor or building. Replacement containers are available in the consolidation area.

Full containers are collected for disposal by EH&S waste technicians. The containers are sanitized by UCSD's biohazardous waste vendor, returned, and placed back into service.



Not All Biohazardous and Medical Waste Can Go in the BIOHAZARD Container

Do not put these types of waste into the BIOHAZARD container:

- Non-hazardous waste – Examples include glucose, buffers, and saline solution.
- Sharps – Including loose hypodermic needles, syringes with attached needles, scalpels, razor blades, and broken glass that must be disposed of in a plastic sharps container. Full sharps containers that are properly labeled and sealed can be placed into the gray plastic BIOHAZARD container.
- Mixed waste – Items contaminated with more than one category of hazardous waste (biological, chemical, or radioactive).
- Extremely hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials
- Carcasses

See the Hazardous Waste Menu in Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/menu/hazwaste> for container, storage, and disposal guidelines for these and all other categories of hazardous waste generated at UCSD.

To request additional containers, or if you have questions about what types of waste can go in the BIOHAZARD containers, contact an EMF representative:

Valerie Fanning: (858) 534-9695, vfanning@ucsd.edu
Richard Snow: (858) 534-9984, rsnow@ucsd.edu
Sam Petersen: (858) 534-9985, sjpetersen@ucsd.edu



Go to Enrollment Central for Safety Training

Looking for research safety training? Register for safety training via Enrollment Central at <http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>. Browse "EH&S–Safety" under Course Topics for schedules.

Laboratory Safety Principles/IIPP

(formerly called "Laboratory Safety for Professionals/IIPP")

Laboratory Safety Principles /IIPP is required for all lab workers. This course meets both the Injury & Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) and laboratory safety training requirements in one convenient session.

Find required and recommended research safety training at:

- **General Lab Safety & Chemical Safety Training**
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/labchemtrain>
- **Radiation Safety Training**
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/radtrain>
- **Biosafety Training**
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/biotrain>
- **Hazardous Waste Training**
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/hazwastrain>

Free Chemicals from ChemCycle



ChemCycle is UCSD's chemical reuse/recycling program. With over 9,000 items available free to researchers with valid UCSD IDs, ChemCycle has probably got what you're looking for. It's good for the pocketbook and good for the environment. Here are just some of the materials available from ChemCycle:

- Acids / Bases
- Solvents
- Paints, cleaners
- Oxidizers
- Pump oils
- Buffers, stains, dyes
- Reagents
- Enzymes
- Compressed gases
- Salts, sugars
- Proteins
- Variety of metals

Free delivery! Use any of these methods to request and have materials delivered free of charge to your workplace:

- **Search and order online** from the ChemCycle database at <http://chem-tech.ucsd.edu/Reuse/>
- **Call** (858) 534-2753 or (858) 583-3265
- **E-mail** chemcycle@ucsd.edu
- **Fax** your order to (858) 534-9708