

Drain Disposal

It is UAB policy that no chemicals be disposed of “down the drain” without PRIOR APPROVAL from the Department of Occupational Health and Safety. The only exception is for drain cleaners and other cleaning products expressly designed for use in or with plumbing fixtures.

Federal, State and local laws strictly regulate the disposal of all chemical and other potentially hazardous waste. Serious penalties, including fines and imprisonment, can result from improper waste disposal. All chemicals, even very small amounts should be handled through UAB’s hazardous waste system. Centrifuge tubes, and other containers with small amounts of xylene, phenol, or other chemicals should be emptied into a collection container before being autoclaved or disposed of through the red barrel waste system. The collection container should be labeled as waste and have a listing of the materials it contains.

More information on chemical waste disposal can be found on the OH&S website at <http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/chemicalsafety/chemicalsafety.html> .

Sometimes a waste will have more than one type of hazard, such as biohazard/chemical, radioactive/chemical or biohazard/radioactive. When dealing with a mixed waste contact the Department of Occupational Health and Safety at 934-2487 for guidance.