

Disposal of Chemotherapy Waste and Hazardous Drugs

Definitions

Chemotherapy Waste: Unused amounts and residue of pharmaceutical compounds used to treat disease.

Hazardous Drugs: Any pharmaceuticals that fall under the [American Society of Health-System Pharmacists \(ASHP\) 1990 definition of hazardous drugs](#), **OR** drugs where the hazards have not been fully ascertained. This also includes pharmaceuticals that are P-listed or U-listed chemicals by the EPA, or those listed in the [“NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings, 2016”](#).

Group 1 and 2A Carcinogens: Compounds designated by the [International Agency for the Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#) as being known to cause human cancer.

Disposal procedures

The following procedures must be followed for the disposal of chemotherapy waste, hazardous drugs, and carcinogens:

Chemotherapy, hazardous drugs, and carcinogen waste such as contaminated gowns, gloves, tubing, wipes, animal bedding, empty drug delivery devices (e.g., syringes and IV bags), must be placed in yellow bags to be managed by Facilities Management for incineration. Wastes that are flammable, corrosive, acutely toxic, or contain heavy metals are not suitable for yellow bag disposal and must be managed as chemical waste by DEHS.

Sharps waste contaminated with trace chemotherapy agents, hazardous drugs, or carcinogens must be disposed of in a yellow sharps bin or a separate sharps container that is labeled “Chemo Sharps,” sealed, and placed in a yellow bag for incineration.

Drinking water used in animal experiments must be disposed of as chemical waste to be managed by DEHS unless permission to sewer is given by UMN Regulated Waste personnel. Please contact them at hazwaste@umn.edu to request review.

To request yellow bins

Contact the Facilities Management call center at (612) 624-2900 to arrange for drop-off and pickup on the Twin Cities campuses. On the UMN Duluth campus, contact the EHS Office at (218) 726-7139 for yellow container drop-off and pickup. For all other locations, contact your UHS representative.

Resources

[UMN Chemical Waste Guidelines](#)

[Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Health Care Industry](#)



Figure 1: Yellow bin