



UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

The Dartmouth College laboratory safety newsletter

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DARTMOUTH
Environmental
Health & Safety

Specific questions? Ask EHS: 603-646-1762 or ehs@dartmouth.edu

Anatomy of a Waste Container

As more researchers return to their labs, there has been a spike in waste storage problems reported to, or found by, EHS. To help double-check practices and answer questions, we will be doing more frequent spot checks of lab waste over the next few months. Here's a quick reminder on the basics of handling two of our most common types of waste containers.



Autoclave bags

Loosely cinched
with autoclave tape



100-250 mL
water added
to bag



Bag in a leak-proof
container ***at all times***



Held in lab until
autoclave is available

Placed in bin after
autoclaving for
custodial pickup



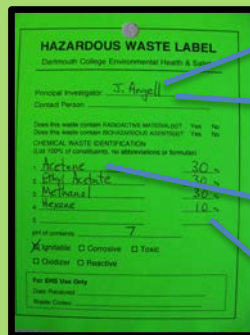
Did you know? Autoclave tape is not an indicator of sterilization but is a convenient way to show that a bag has at least been in an autoclave. It's the best way for custodians to know the bags are safe to handle, and the landfill can reject bags that weren't clearly autoclaved. EHS recently had to visit the landfill to investigate a shipment of disposed bags that did not have autoclave tape on them. For more information see the [Biohazardous Waste Disposal Guide](#).

Chemical waste

Closed

Labeled

In secondary
containment



PI name

Person responsible for
container, if different

Full chemical name
(no abbreviations)

Approximate
composition

Did you know? Our hazardous waste program is regulated by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, which occasionally inspects our facilities. They are overdue for a visit and could show up at any time. Violations found during state inspections can result in large fines, including for expired trainings, so it's important for everyone to do their part! For more information see the [Hazardous Waste Disposal Guide for Research Areas](#).

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