



### How to throw away contaminated items

It is forbidden to put toxic substances in domestic bins.

**To avoid incompatibilities and releasing contaminants**, the following rules have to be respected in this order:



**Radionuclide** contaminations are treated according to the law on radioprotection: contact your expert in radioprotection.

For any **biohazardous** item (**P1, P2 or P3**), follow the guidelines <http://scc.epfl.ch/Biological-Waste> or contact the biosafety team.



**Nanomaterials** will be over-packed tightly: the container with the waste will be closed and put into a (rigid or soft) secondary container for toxic substances.



Any item contaminated with an **oxidizer** must be put into a separate container. In case of a liquid spill (ex: nitric acid), the chemical is first soaked up with the absorbent for chemicals (diatomaceous earth or equivalent). Once in the container (picture: "UN" certified transport container), it is sealed, labelled and brought to the dedicated waste facility for disposal.



Before throwing away the item, if no neutralisation is needed it is recommended leaving the item to dry out:  
 - in a fume hood: for example, the item could be left drying out in a small table-bin (available at the stores).  
 - if there is no fume hood in the room (ex: electronic workshop), the evaporation can be carried out by placing the labelled bin next to the room's ventilation system.



To confine contaminated items, zip-lock plastic bags (available at the stores) can also be used.

Taking into account these considerations, the contaminated item is put into a bin according to the following table:

Item type	Bin type	Conditions
<b>Not-sharp/ not-peaked items</b> (gloves, cloth, lab coat, etc) are put in bags for ...	toxic waste (grey bag) 	when the contaminant has at least one of these six hazards: 
	domestic waste (blue bag) 	when the item has only been contaminated with a <u>small amount</u> (1 drop or <25 µL), of a contaminant having <u>at most these three hazards</u> : 
		And the item must be <u>dry</u> . Example: if a cloth was moistened with a drop of ethanol (a flammable and non-toxic solvent), it can be put in this bag if it has been dried beforehand.



**Sharp, peaked items** follow the same rules but must be put into adapted rigid plastic bins:



Un-used rests of substances can be brought to the dedicated facility for disposal (your store for example) if they are stable and in their original undamaged containers. They must be sealed with the original cap and the label must be readable.

The labelling of the special waste must be done according to the file Management of special wastes <http://scc.epfl.ch/chemical-waste>.  
 For any special situation contact the Safety Competence Center.