MEMO

Laboratory waste bins: Recommendations for solid contaminated waste

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this communication is to summarize the rules and recommendations regarding waste bins for solid contaminated waste: gloves, paper, plastic lab consumables, etc. (excluding glass and sharp/pointy objects) contaminated with one or more of the following GHS pictograms.

This communication applies to solid contaminated waste only; it does not apply to biological or radioactive waste. Waste contaminated with nanomaterials must be double packaged (in a bag or a plastic container).

Waste contaminated with an oxidizer must be collected separately in an UN-certified container (use the white plastic buckets).

2 Rules & requirements

There is no universal waste bin for EPFL laboratories. Each research unit can purchase a model of its choice outside of Catalyse AS LONG AS it fulfills the requirements listed below. To be used with the official EPFL bags for solid contaminated waste only. See sections 3 and 4 for examples.

1. Waste bins made of metal are highly recommended, especially for chemistry laboratories.
2. Plastic bins are allowed.
3. Bag holders are allowed.
4. Bins without lid OR a with a foot pedal opening lid.
5. Adapted to the size of the official EPFL waste bag for solid contaminated waste (90-110 L).
3 Examples and recommendations

Official EPFL waste bag for solid contaminated waste.

Note: these bags are gray in Lausanne and Neuchâtel, blue in Sion.

Metallic waste bin available at the Chemical stores on campus.

Metallic waste bin available through Catalyse (select Kaiser+Kraft catalog; ref# 521214).
Metallic waste bin without lid available through Catalyse (select Manutan catalog; ref# A497898).

Waste bag holder with a foot pedal opening lid available through Catalyse (select Manutan catalog; ref# A518379).

Ex: https://www.manutan.ch/fr/fab/poubelle-anti-feu.
4 Examples of waste bins NOT recommended or NOT allowed.

These yellow plastic bins should only be used for glass waste and or sharp/pointy waste.

Note: No needle, no scalpel blade.

These cardboard boxes are ONLY allowed for waste contaminated with genetically modified organisms. For BIO laboratories only.

Note: No glass, no needle, no scalpel blade.