

Safetygram

NCI-Frederick

ISM160

Laboratory Personnel

March 2013

Use of Plastic Jugs for Waste Disposal

Laboratories and shops generate liquid wastes that aren't EPA Hazardous Wastes but can't go down the sink or drain, either. Ethidium bromide and other carcinogens are common examples. What should you do with these?

Dilute aqueous wastes such as ethidium bromide should be poured into one gallon plastic containers packed with absorbent – usually yellow chopped polypropylene. The container is full when freestanding liquid can not be seen at the bottom. At this point, securely cap the container and place into a leak proof plastic bag. Laboratory personnel are responsible for placing the closed container in the medical waste carts located outside laboratory buildings. Fort Detrick personnel collect medical waste carts daily for incineration.

What are EPA Hazardous Wastes? Please call EHS at x 1451 with questions or consult Chapter D-2 of NCI-F *Safety and Environmental Compliance Manual* online.

Plastic containers, absorbent, and bags are conveniently available through the NCI Frederick Supply Warehouse. The catalog numbers and brief description of these products from the current Warehouse Supply Catalog follows:

- JUG, ROUND, WIDE MOUTH, FOR DISPOSAL OF AQUEOUS CARCINOGEN WASTE, 1 GAL., #2185WM4, (4/CS)
- JUG LID, TO FIT 1 GALLON WIDE MOUTH POLYPROPYLENE LINERLESS WHITE 110-400 FINISH, #91104 PL, CS.OF 315

If you have any questions about waste disposal or need additional assistance, please contact Waste Management at x5718, email ncichemwaste@mail.nih.gov or EHS at x1451.