

How to Dispose of Plastic Tissue-Culture Pipettes

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Plastic tissue-culture pipettes must be disposed of in rigid, puncture- and leak-proof containers. Follow these guidelines to store and dispose of pipettes. Select a category depending on type of contamination:

1. Used but not contaminated with hazardous material

- Select any rigid, puncture-proof container (e.g. cardboard box) lined with a clear plastic bag. If using biohazardous sharps container, deface the biohazardous symbol.
- Label the container "Non-hazardous."
- Dispose of the container.
 - tie the liner bag and tape the box closed.
 - Place the sealed box or sharps container into a regular laboratory trash can.

2. Chemical or radioactive contamination

- **Select an acceptable storage container:** Options for pipettes contaminated with hazardous materials include:
 - The original pipette box with a plastic bag placed inside
 - A sharps storage container
 - Recycled rigid plastic bottles
- **Label the storage container:**
 - Label with a hazardous waste tag or radioactive waste tag (as appropriate) after you place the first contaminated pipette into the plastic bag or other container.
- **Dispose of contaminated pipettes:**
 - If you stored the pipettes inside a plastic bag in their original box, tightly tie the bag closed.
 - Do not tape the box closed. Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) waste technicians must visually inspect the bags before collection.
 - Request a [hazardous waste collection](#).

3. Contaminated with biohazard materials (no chemical or radioactive materials)

- Place the used pipettes either in a rigid BIOHAZARD container that has been lined with 2 labeled, red biohazard bags (container must have a lid)



BIOHAZARD container, double lined with red biohaz bags

OR in a rigid BIOHAZARD sharps storage container.



BIOHAZARD sharps container

- Label the red bags (if they are not preprinted) or sharps container with the following information on the outside when you add the first contaminated pipette:
 - The international biohazard symbol
 - UCSD address and phone number:
University of California, San Diego (or UCSD)
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093
(858) 534-3660 or (858) 534-4357
 - Building name and room number where the waste was generated
- Tie or secure the 2 liner bags closed when full (or dispose of the sharps container in the BIOHAZ container) and wheel the BIOHAZARD container to the biohazard waste collection area for your floor or building to be collected by EH&S.
- Get a replacement container at the collection area.
- Request additional BIOHAZARD containers from [EH&S Environmental Management Facility](#), (858) 534-2753.

NOTE: Contact the *Division of Biological Sciences' Safety Office* if you want to autoclave before disposing of your contaminated pipettes. The Division has specific procedures and locations.

4. Contaminated with mixed hazardous material

Contact the EH&S [Environmental Management Facility](#) for specific disposal instructions when pipettes are contaminated with multiple categories of hazardous materials (biological, radioactive, or chemical).

Questions? Contact [EH&S Biosafety](#), (858) 534-5366.

Notice: Disposal of hazardous waste using sinks, intentional evaporation, or as regular trash is against the law. Campus laboratories must abide by strict state and federal waste disposal requirements. You may be held liable for violations of applicable laws.