

## Appendix C: Chemical Waste Disposal

Chemical waste is treated according to its physical and chemical properties therefore the segregation of waste products is crucial. The mixing of incompatible materials in waste streams can result in unwanted reactions, such as the production of toxic gases or explosions. It is the responsibility of the person performing the activity to include chemical waste disposal in risk assessments and produce procedures for disposal prior to conducting experimental work.

The safety data sheet (SDS) and labels must be consulted for appropriate disposal methods when conducting the risk assessment for any work that involves the use of chemicals.

The preferred method of chemical waste disposal is to use a licensed waste contractor (such as Toxfree Australia), which will be procured by a Laboratory Manager on behalf of ACU, to ensure that waste is disposed of in a safe and environmentally responsible way. In some instances, it may not be possible to dispose of the waste through waste contractors, as they may not have the relevant licence or treatment facilities. In this instance, the waste generator will investigate alternative methods of disposal. If it is not possible to dispose of appropriately, the activity should not be performed.

Waste must be properly labelled, stored in a suitable container, and housed appropriately prior to collection. Arrangements must be in place for waste to be collected regularly by the licensed waste contractor for appropriate off-site treatment. Some wastes need to be tracked to ensure proper disposal.

In some circumstances, chemical waste may be treated in-house, but only if the material(s) convert to a non-hazardous product. Approval from the local water authority is required before anything is disposed within a sewer. Under no circumstances should *hazardous waste* be allowed to enter drains. Dilution is not an acceptable alternative to appropriate disposal.

All chemical waste containers must be labelled with the contents (including estimates of concentration where possible) and the date of generation.