

Swansea University

Waste Management Guidance Note WMGN21:

- Chemically Contaminated Solid Waste (Red Bag)

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Waste Management Guidance Note WMGN21 Chemical Contaminated Solid Waste (Red Bag)	
Location Generated	Any laboratory or workshop
EWC	15 02 02* / 15 01 10* / 16 03 03* / 16 03 05*
Type	Controlled – Hazardous waste
Disposal Method	Segregated for incineration
Bin / Bag Type	Metal Fireproof Bin / Red bag only

Duty of Care Requirements

EWC 15 02 02* "absorbents, filter materials (including oil filters not otherwise specified), wiping cloths, protective clothing contaminated by hazardous substances "

EWC 15 01 10* "packaging containing residues of or contaminated by hazardous Substances"

EWC 16 03 03* "Inorganic wastes containing hazardous substances"

EWC 16 03 05* "Organic wastes containing hazardous substances"

It is a legal requirement under the Hazardous Waste Regulations to segregate hazardous wastes from non-hazardous wastes. Incorrectly disposing of hazardous waste via a non-hazardous waste stream can lead to legal and financial penalties dependent upon the severity of the noncompliance.

Chemical and solvent-contaminated solids produced in the University's laboratories and workshops are highly flammable and must be dealt with diligently.

The University has an appointed hazardous waste contractor who supplies a collection service to both Singleton and Bay chemical waste stores.

Items

All of the following chemically contaminated solid waste produced by laboratories and workshops must be placed into **red bags** for disposal;

- **Solvent and chemical powder contaminated cloths/wipes**
- **Laboratory blue paper towels/roll**
- **Contaminated packaging**
- **PPE (masks/aprons/gloves/disposable lab coats etc.)**
- **Lab consumables – e.g. filter papers, weigh boats, tubing, pH paper, septa, pipette teats,**

This list is not exhaustive and other materials/items can be disposed of in red bags provided they:

- Come from a laboratory or workshop environment
- Are chemically contaminated

- Will not break/split/rupture the bag – [see below](#)

If you are in any doubt as to whether any of the items listed above are contaminated with chemicals, the item **must** be segregated from other wastes and placed into a red bag for disposal via the chemical waste store.



Figure 1: Red bag and appropriate bin

It is the responsibility of the waste producer to procure their own red bags for waste. It is recommended to use heavy duty bags to prevent unwanted splits. Further guidance and advice on red bags can be provided by contacting estates-waste@swansea.ac.uk.

Disposal Instructions

Internal Storage

All laboratories and workshops producing chemically contained waste must install compliant waste bins; a standard specification has been developed, which is available [here](#).

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Under **no** circumstances should any sharps be placed into red bags, or items that may affect the integrity of the bag, including tips. Glass pierces the bags and has health and safety implications for waste service providers (see [WMGN23](#) Broken and Contaminated Laboratory Glass).

Laboratory items that **should not** be placed into red bags include (but are not limited to):

- Pasteur pipettes (glass or plastic)
- Pipette tips
- Serological pipettes
- Sample tubes
- Syringes
- Syringe needles
- Scalpels/blades
- Scissors
- Surgical suture equipment
- Capillary tubes
- NMR tubes
- Melting point tubes

- Vials – plastic or glass
- Glass items – either broken or intact
- Cuvettes – glass or plastic
- Pens / pencils
- Testing kits
- Centrifuge & Microcentrifuge (Falcon) tubes
- Microscope slides
- Spatulas

Please note it is an offence and a non-conformance with university procedures to place a red bag with chemically contaminated waste into any of the University's external waste and recycling bins.

External Storage prior to disposal - Chemical Store

Red bags **must** be disposed of via the hazardous chemical stores. Red bags **cannot** be placed in the non-recycling or recycling wheelie bins.

Each red bag brought to the chemical waste stores **must** have a chemical waste label (see WMP [Chemical Waste Store User Procedure](#)).

Disposal Cost

Currently the disposal cost of routine hazardous waste is factored into the University's waste management service provision; therefore, there is no direct cost to individuals/Faculties/PSs. This is a significant cost and environmental impact to the university, therefore all reasonable and compliant steps shall be taken to minimise chemically contaminated materials.

N.b. There may be costs associated with non-routine ad-hoc or significantly large hazardous waste requests.

For further guidance please contact estates-waste@swansea.ac.uk

Forms, Labelling and further guidance

- Labels for internal red bag bins can be found below.
- All relevant forms, labels and further waste guidance can be found [here](#)

WARNING HAZARDOUS WASTE



CHEMICALLY CONTAMINATED SOLIDS ONLY

METAL FLIP TOP BIN ONLY - RED BAG ONLY - EWC 15 02 02 *

ITEMS

**CLOTHS / PAPER TOWELS / PLASTIC FILM AND PACKAGING/ GLOVES / MASKS/ SMALL
NON-SHARP CONTAMINATED PLASTICS**

**NO BIOLOGICALS / NO GLASS OF ANY TYPE – WINCHESTERS / BROKEN LAB GLASS / NO
SHARPS INCLUDING TIPS OR ITEMS WHICH WILL RIP THE BAG**

**RED BAGS MUST BE DISPOSED OF VIA THE CHEMICAL WASTE STORE / RED BAG BINS MUST BE EMPTIED
FREQUENTLY OR EMPTIED IMMEDIATELY WHEN FULL / SATURATED CLOTHS AND PAPER TOWELS USED FOR SPILLS
AND CLEANING MUST BE BAGGED SEPARATELY FOR DISPOSAL**