

# Swansea University

Waste Management Guidance Note  
WMGN21 Chemically Contaminated  
Solid Waste (Red Bag)

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<b>Waste Management Guidance Note WMGN21</b> <b>Chemical Contaminated Solid Waste (Red Bag)</b>	
Location Generated	Any laboratory or workshop
EWC	15 02 02*
Type	Controlled – Hazardous waste
Disposal Method	Segregated for incineration
Bin/ Bag Type	Metal Fire Proof Bin / <b>Red bag only</b>

### **Duty of Care Requirements**

EWC 15 02 02\* "Absorbents, filter materials, wiping cloths, protective clothing contaminated by dangerous 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 whom 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 powers contaminated cloths**
- **Blue paper towels**
- **PPE (masks/aprons/gloves)**
- **Small non-sharp contaminated plastic containers**

If it is not clear 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

## **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](#).

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).

**Please note it is an offence 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 chemicals 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 8.1.5 Chemical Waste Store User Guide).

### **Disposal Cost**

Currently the disposal cost is factored into the University's waste management service provision; therefore there is no direct cost to individuals/Colleges/PSUs.

**For further guidance please contact [Estates-Waste@Swansea.ac.uk](mailto: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 / GLOVES / SMALL NON-SHARP  
CONTAMINATED PLASTIC CONTAINERS**

**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 OUT DAILY  
OR EMPTIED IMMEDIATELY WHEN FULL / SATURATED CLOTHS AND PAPER TOWELS USED FOR SPILLS AND  
CLEANING MUST BE BAGGED SEPARATELY FOR DISPOSAL**