

RARC Guidelines for Disposal of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Materials

Expired drugs, fluids, and medical materials may not be used in live vertebrate animals.* The Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) department on campus will pick up many expired materials for you. For comprehensive guidelines see the EH&S Disposal page: <https://ehs.wisc.edu/disposal-services/>

Note: EH&S cannot pick-up or dispose of DEA controlled substances. For controlled substance disposal instructions, contact DEA directly at (608) 210-4334, DEA.Registration.Help@usdoj.gov or contact Sarah Johnson-Schlueter: apas@rarc.wisc.edu, 263-4861.

Disposal of noncontrolled drugs and materials, not contained in carboys:

1. Complete and submit the Chemical Waste/Surplus Pickup Request Form. List each drug and/or material for disposal on the form keep it with the material for pick-up: <https://ehs.wisc.edu/chemical-disposalsurplus-pickup-request-form-2/>
2. Prepare your materials for pick-up:
 - a. Make sure each drug and material is in a sealed container with its contents labeled. Any liquids should be placed in a secondary container (e.g. a plastic dish or tub).
 - b. If no one will be in the lab when the chemical safety specialist arrives to pick up the materials, place them, along with the completed Surplus Chemical Form, somewhere in the lab that is safe but visible enough for the specialist to see it.

Disposal of non-pharmaceutical items:

1. Liquid non-pharmaceutical items (e.g. Lactated Ringer's NaCl, sterile water, etc.) can be dumped down the drain. Their containers can be placed in the regular trash or recycling.
2. Non-pharmaceutical items and non-contaminated medical materials (e.g. artificial tears ointment, lubricating jelly, gauze, surgical gloves, bandages etc.) can be placed in the regular trash.
3. Medical sharps (e.g. needles, scalpel blades, etc.) can be placed in an approved sharps container. Visit <https://ehs.wisc.edu/sharps-disposal/> for additional guidance on sharps.

For questions and more information:

Contact EH&S: <https://ehs.wisc.edu/contact-us-2/> or RARC: apas@rarc.wisc.edu

Visit the EH&S website <https://ehs.wisc.edu/disposal-services/>

Visit the RARC website www.rarc.wisc.edu/services/pharmacy_services.html?tab=2

* With proper protocol approval, some expired medical materials may be used for acute terminal studies in which the health and well being of the vertebrate animal are not affected and the scientific integrity of the experiment is not jeopardized. These materials must be labeled appropriately (e.g. "Expired, For Use Only in Terminal Procedures") and must be stored in a physically separate area from nonexpired materials. **Under no circumstance can expired anesthesia, analgesia, euthanasia, or emergency drugs be used in any vertebrate animal.**