Hazardous Waste Program Factsheet

Pharmaceutical Waste Guidelines

Pharmaceutical waste may be a hazardous chemical waste, controlled substance or biomedical waste. Proper classification is necessary to be in compliance with the laws regulating each waste type.

Hazardous Chemical Pharmaceutical Waste:

A number of common pharmaceuticals are regulated as hazardous chemical waste. These include but are not limited to:

Arsenic Trioxide	Epinephrine	Nitroglycerine	Saccharin
Chloroform	Formaldehyde	Phenacetine	Selenium Sulfide
Chorambucil	Hexachlorophene	Phenol	Streptozotcin
Cyclophosphamide	Lindane	Physostigimine Salicylate	Uracil mustard
Dauomycin	Melphalan	Physostigmine	Warfarin >0.3%
Dichlorodifluoromethane	Mitomycin C	Reserpine	
Diethylstilbestrol	Nicotine	Resorcinol	

Pharmaceutical waste that exhibit one or more of the EPA characteristics of a hazardous chemical waste are also regulated as a hazardous chemical waste. These characteristics are:

• Corrosivity • Ignitability • Reactivity • Toxicity

All pharmaceutical waste that is also a hazardous chemical waste must be managed according to the UCSB Chemical Hazardous Waste Disposal Procedures at www.ehs.ucsb.edu/units/envhlth/ehrsc/hazardouswaste/envdisppro.htm

Controlled Substance Pharmaceutical Waste:

Controlled Substances cannot be disposed of through EH&S. All Controlled Substances must be disposed of through an approved vendor with all appropriate paperwork provided by the Department of Purchasing.

Pharmaceutical Waste:

All other pharmaceutical waste not meeting the definition of a Hazardous Waste or a Controlled Substance may also be disposed of through the EH&S Chemical Waste Program or can be managed as a biomedical waste following the UCSB Medical Waste Management Plan.