

RARC Guidelines for Animal Researchers Disposal of Pharmaceuticals & Medical Materials

Any material used in live vertebrate animals must be properly disposed of before it expires.* Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) handles disposal of unwanted materials at UW-Madison. For comprehensive guidelines see the EH&S Recyclopeda page: www.ehs.wisc.edu/disposal-services/recyclopeda/.

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@dea.gov or contact the RARC Assessment Specialists at apas@rarc.wisc.edu.

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

1. List each drug and/or material for disposal on the Surplus Chemical Form and keep it with the drug(s) and/or material(s) for pick-up:
ehs.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1408/2020/08/SurplusChemicalsForm.pdf
2. Complete and submit the Chemical Waste/Surplus Pickup Request Form:
ehs.wisc.edu/disposal-services/chemical-disposal/chemical-disposal-surplus-pick-up-form/
3. Prepare your drug(s) and/or material(s) 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 drug(s) and/or material(s), 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.
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 ehs.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1408/2020/09/Sharps_Disposal_Poster_2018.pdf for additional guidance on sharps.

For questions and more information:

Contact EH&S: EHS@wisc.edu or RARC: apas@rarc.wisc.edu

Visit the EH&S website ehs.wisc.edu/disposal-services/

Visit the RARC website www.rarc.wisc.edu/services/pharmacy_services.html

* 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.**