

# Proper Waste Management of Solvent Contaminated Wipes



Solvent contaminated wipes (and debris) are often generated during equipment cleaning and maintenance activities conducted in research laboratories, facilities and clinical settings. Wipes that have been in contact with certain listed chemicals and solvents are considered hazardous waste and must be managed appropriately.

The purpose of this document is to establish basic criteria to help determine whether your solvent wipes are regulated as hazardous waste. If you need help in making this determination, please contact the Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) office at 763-4568.

## **What cannot be disposed in normal trash and must be collected by HMM for proper disposal:**

- Wipes that have been in contact with any of the following F-listed solvents or chemicals;

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Halogenated Solvents	
Tetrachloroethylene	Chlorobenzene
Trichloroethylene	1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane
Methylene Chloride	Ortho-dichlorobenzene
1,1,1-trichloroethane	Trichlorofluoromethane
Carbon Tetrachloride	1,1,2-trichloroethane
Chlorinated Fluorocarbons	

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Non-Halogenated Solvents	
Xylene	Nitrobenzene
Acetone	Toluene
Ethyl Acetate	Methyl Ethyl Ketone
Ethyl Benzene	Carbon Disulfide
Ethyl Ether	Isobutanol
Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	Pyridine
n-Butyl Alcohol	Benzene
Cyclohexanone	2-ethoxyethanol
Methanol	2-nitropropane
Cresols & Cresylic Acid	

- Wipes that have been in contact with an ignitable or toxic solvent (other than F-listed) where the solvent has not been consumed in the process;
- Wipes containing free liquid that cannot be drain disposed;
- Wipes contaminated with heavy metals or MI “S” listed waste (Aflatoxin, Dioxins & Dibenzofuran TCDF);
- Wipes used to clean up a spilled [“P”](#) or [“U”](#) listed commercial chemical product (for listing refer to the OSEH—HMM web page);
- Wipes contaminated with PCBs;
- Wipes used to clean up a spill of hazardous waste.

## **What can be disposed in normal trash:**

Wipes that have been in contact with a solvent (other than listed above) where the solvent has been consumed during use may be discarded in a receptacle as normal trash. Examples include ethanol or isopropyl alcohol wipes where the ethanol or isopropyl alcohol has been consumed during use and the wipe is dry at the time of disposal.