

**Rutgers Environmental Health and Safety (REHS)  
Guidance Document****Title:** Healthcare Center Waste Management**Revision Date:** September 15, 2020**BACKGROUND**

Rutgers healthcare centers and clinics generate wastes that are regulated as Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste. This document describes the different types of waste and how to properly manage them for disposal.

**Hazardous Waste**

Typical hazardous wastes in clinical settings may include the following:

- Flammable liquids
- Corrosive liquids
- Expired pharmaceuticals/chemicals

All hazardous wastes are managed through REHS. Use the following link to request a hazardous waste pickup by REHS.

<https://halflife.rutgers.edu/forms/hazwaste.php>

**Flammable Liquids**

Flammable liquids are those with a flash point < 140 F. This includes methanol, ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, acetone and other similar liquids that display the flammable pictogram on the chemical label. Additionally, many prepared solutions may exhibit the characteristic of flammability.

**Corrosive Liquids**

Corrosive Liquids are those with a pH  $\leq 2$  or  $\geq 12.5$ . This includes acids and bases. Examples of acids used in clinical settings include acetic acid, hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid. Examples of bases include concentrated bleach, sodium hydroxide and ammonium hydroxide. Additionally many prepared solutions may exhibit the characteristic of corrosivity.

**Expired Pharmaceuticals/Chemicals**

Certain pharmaceuticals such as nicotine and epinephrine are classified as hazardous due to their composition and must be disposed of as hazardous waste when their shelf life expires. Hazardous waste pharmaceuticals may not be drain disposed. The following link contains a list of pharmaceuticals that may be regarded as hazardous waste.

[https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Hazardous\\_Waste\\_Pharm\\_List\\_Feb17.pdf](https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Hazardous_Waste_Pharm_List_Feb17.pdf)

## **Universal Waste**

Universal Waste includes rechargeable batteries, mercury containing equipment, consumer electronics, and fluorescent bulbs.

### **Rechargeable Batteries**

Rechargeable batteries include lead acid, NiCad, NiMH and lithium batteries. All rechargeable batteries must be picked-up by REHS. Use the following link to request a pick-up.

<https://halflife.rutgers.edu/forms/hazwaste.php>

Alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt, etc.) can be discarded in the general trash.

### **Mercury Containing Equipment**

Mercury containing equipment must be collected and will be picked-up by REHS. This includes blood pressure devices, thermometers, mercury switches (i.e. thermostats), barometers and specialized laboratory equipment containing mercury. Use the following link to request a pick-up.

<https://halflife.rutgers.edu/forms/hazwaste.php>

### **Consumer Electronics**

Items such as computers, televisions, video recorders, DVD players, radios, laptops, cell phones printers and other items which contain circuit boards are considered consumer electronics. Please contact Rutgers Material Services at [material\\_services@ipo.rutgers.edu](mailto:material_services@ipo.rutgers.edu) for the removal of these items.

**Note:** Any equipment labeled as hazardous (i.e. biohazardous, radioactive) must be decontaminated with the labels defaced prior to disposal or offering to Rutgers Material Services. Please contact your Campus Health & Safety Specialist at (848) 445-2550 for more information.

### **Fluorescent Bulbs**

Spent fluorescent bulbs are managed by the Facilities Maintenance Department. These items are stored in various locations throughout Rutgers. To request a pick-up of spent fluorescent bulbs, please contact the Facilities Maintenance Zone Manager responsible for your location.

## **Other Wastes**

### **Toner Cartridges**

Spent toner cartridges should be returned to the supplier/manufacturer in the original container whenever possible. Refer to the supplier's website or instructions on the toner package for further information.

Call REHS at (848) 445-2550  
[hazwaste@rutgers.edu](mailto:hazwaste@rutgers.edu)