



Safety Instruction

Wastewater Disposal Guidelines

General

- With approximately 28,000 students and 5,000 faculty/staff members on the campus, OSU generates over 1.1 million gallons of wastewater each day.
- Most interior drains on campus lead to the City of Corvallis wastewater treatment plant while most exterior drains lead directly to Oak Creek or the Willamette River without pre-treatment.
- Interior and exterior drain disposal at OSU is regulated by the Federal Clean Water Act and the City of Corvallis Municipal Code.
- Civil and Criminal penalties can be incurred from improper drain disposal!
- No material qualifying as a hazardous waste may be disposed of in the drain.

What Can Go Down the Interior Drains ?

The following criteria apply to liquid wastes disposed of through interior drains:

1. Nonhazardous ([see list](#))
 - No radioactive waste
 - No hazardous chemical waste
 - No untreated bio-hazardous waste
2. Liquid
 - No solids, sludges, or viscous substances
 - Biological liquids only after being inactivated via bleach or other methods
 - Microbial cultures only after being autoclaved
3. Will not interfere with sewage treatment operations
 - corrosive pH levels, only pH 6.0 to 9.5 are allowed. NOTE: Must have authorization prior to disposal and conduct and document pH testing prior to disposal.
 - No grease or oil
 - No hot (150°F or higher) temperatures in volumes of more than 10 gallons
4. If you wish to dispose of waste that falls under the approved criteria above, you must have authorization prior to disposal. A [waste determination](#), is required to ensure compliance with drain disposal requirements.
5. Contact EH&S on drain disposal of rinseates from chemical or fertilizer/pesticide containers.



If you can't find a particular substance and aren't sure how to dispose of it, contact the EH&S at (541) 737-2273.

- Note: Protect drains from chemical spills — do not use sinks for chemical storage or secondary containment. Disposal of hazardous waste using sinks, intentional evaporation, or as regular trash is against the law. Campus laboratories must abide by strict state and federal waste disposal requirements. You may be held liable for violations of applicable laws.



Exterior Drain Disposal Limits

The following criteria apply to liquid wastes disposed of through exterior drains:

- Only clean rain runoff and de-chlorinated potable water may be disposed of in exterior drains.
- No chemicals or other materials may be disposed of through exterior drains.

For questions regarding what can and cannot be disposed of down a drain, contact EH&S at 541-737-2273



Contact EHS:

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