

# Spotlight On Safety

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## DRAIN DISPOSAL ALERT

June 2020



Controlling campus wastewater discharges has always been a high priority at UCR. Much of the wastewater generated on campus is domestic sewage from restrooms and dormitories, however, wastewater from laboratory drains and other non-domestic wastewater sources also go to the wastewater treatment plant.

Discharge of inappropriate materials into the sanitary sewer can damage sewer pipes and affect operation of the wastewater treatment plant, jeopardize the health of maintenance workers, and cause harmful environmental impacts. It is harmful and illegal to dispose of any hazardous chemicals or waste in sewer or storm drains.

### *Requirement*

The frequently asked question is: “Can this go down the drain?” The answer at UCR is “no” for hazardous chemicals and hazardous waste (as defined by California law). Absolutely no hazardous chemicals or hazardous waste can be drain disposed. There are also sewer discharge prohibitions related to pH, temperature, and other properties that may impact the sewer system and wastewater treatment plant operation.

### *Your Responsibilities*

- Dispose of all hazardous materials (listed as hazardous or hazardous wastes by definition), including but not limited to toxic, flammable, corrosive, and reactive compounds via EH&S Waste Management (<https://ehs.ucr.edu/waste>)
- Visit the Waste Management webpage to determine if your materials are hazardous or if they can be disposed of down the drain (<https://ehs.ucr.edu/waste#resources>).
- For ALL hazardous materials that cannot be disposed via the drain, request a waste pickup online at <https://ehs.ucop.edu/waste/#/> (chemical or biohazardous waste pickups) or <https://ehs.ucop.edu/radiation/#/home> (radioactive waste pickups)

### *Compliance is Top Priority*

The penalties for non-compliance are severe but complying with the law is not as straightforward as it may sound. Determining if your material fits the definition of hazardous chemical or hazardous waste can be difficult. The following may help:

1. Complete the EH&S Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Training online at <https://uc.sumtotal.host/core/dash/home>
2. Review the Waste Management information at <https://ehs.ucr.edu/waste>, or contact the Hazardous Materials team at 951 - 827-5528

Visit <https://ehs.ucr.edu> or call EH&S at 827-5528 for additional information.