Simon Fraser University must abide by Provincial Government Hazardous Waste Legislation, which regulates what must be disposed of as hazardous waste, and what is safe for disposing into regular garbage. This legislation exists to protect human health, as well as the health of the environment.

Solid waste that is contaminated with chemicals or other hazardous materials must be collected and disposed of as hazardous waste. Examples of solid wastes that have a potential to be contaminated with hazardous materials includes materials such as silica, drying agents, chromatography reagents and filter papers. The following is a guideline for dealing with hazardous solid waste and common hazardous solid waste generated in laboratories at SFU.

Note: The following guidelines do not replace the risk assessment users must perform when working with hazardous materials to determine their safest method of disposal.

Hazardous Solid Waste Disposal Guidelines:

1. Contaminated solid waste can be collected in an appropriate waste container, bucket or bag, and can be picked up directly from your laboratory by the hazardous waste contractors.
2. Clearly label the waste container with the contents and hazardous contaminants present.
3. Compatible waste may be collected in the same container.
4. Complete the waste disposal form at www.sfu.ca/science-stores/ to schedule a pickup.

Ethidium bromide (EtBr) waste, including all contaminated gloves, disposable plasticware and gels must be collected in an appropriate disposal container, clearly labeled as EtBr waste, and disposed of by the hazardous waste contractors.

The following is a list of common hazardous solid waste generated in laboratories:

Dioxin (TCDD) contaminated plasticware.
Phenol contaminated plasticware
Contaminated filter papers
Used spill kit materials

Contaminated Drying agents:
Sodium Sulfate
Magnesium Sulfate
Calcium Chloride

Contaminated TLC plates (Thin Layer Chromatography plates):
Aluminum backed TLC plates
Glass backed TLC plates
Charcoal for decolourization

Contaminated Chromatography Reagents:
Silica gel
Alumina
Exchange Resins
Celite (diatomaceous earth)
Sephadex

Please contact the Environmental Health and Safety office at 778-782-7265 for additional information on disposal of hazardous waste.