

# DRAIN DISPOSAL GUIDANCE

Appalachian State University personnel must be sure that all waste is disposed of properly. Some materials can be safely disposed of down the drain while others may be damaging to human health, the environment, university buildings, or our local wastewater treatment plant. The University is required to comply with sewer disposal restrictions established by the Town of Boone, State of NC, and the Federal government. Use this guide to help identify waste streams that are prohibited from drain disposal and to prevent accidental releases of hazardous materials to the sanitary sewer in the event of a spill.

## SAFE FOR DRAIN DISPOSAL

- ✓ Dilute salt solutions (excluding heavy metal salt solutions)
- ✓ Inorganic Buffers (e.g., Phosphate)
- ✓ Organic Buffers (e.g., Tris)
- ✓ Inactivated biohazardous material\*
- ✓ **Steam Sterilization:** 121°C/15 psi/60 mins.
- ✓ **Weekly monitoring** of treatment effectiveness using biological indicators is required.
- ✓ **Chemical Sterilization:** 1:10 bleach dilution/60 mins contact time.

## PROHIBITED FROM DRAIN DISPOSAL

- ✗ Hazardous Waste, regardless of the amount (e.g., solvent waste)
- ✗ Ignitables (Flashpoint less than 140°F) (e.g., alcohols, xylenes, ketones, and aldehydes)
- ✗ Corrosives (pH < 5 or > 11)
- ✗ Toxic Chemicals including carcinogens, mutagens, and teratogens (e.g., ethidium bromide and acrylamide)
- ✗ Radioactive Material
- ✗ Liquids or Vapors at temperatures > 150° C
- ✗ Reactive/Oxidizers (e.g., peroxides and azides)
- ✗ Cryogenics
- ✗ Oxygen depleting agents (e.g., N<sub>2</sub>, fertilizers)
- ✗ Detergents or excessive foaming agents
- ✗ Dyes and stains
- ✗ Malodorous/noxious agents (e.g., mercaptans)
- ✗ Solid or viscous substances capable of causing obstruction (e.g., oil and grease)



## DRAIN PROTECTION

- Utilize secondary containment to prevent leaks or spills from entering the sewer.
- Do not store chemicals in or near sinks. Do not use sinks as secondary containment.
- Install a raised curb around the drains, extend the drainpipes, drain plugs.



Dilution ≠ Solution to Pollution

- Wastes must **NOT** be intentionally diluted **nor** treated to comply with sink/sewer disposal.
- If you are unsure how to properly dispose of a specific chemical contact the Lab Safety Program at [labsafety@appstate.edu](mailto:labsafety@appstate.edu).

Want more specifics?  
Scan Here!



**EHS&EM**  
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

\*Autoclave/chemical sterilization requirements are specified by [NC DEQ](#). New sites and/or new types of medical waste must be cleared by EHS&EM prior to disposal.