

Disposal of Controlled Substances and other Pharmaceuticals

The preferred method of disposal of controlled substances is complete use of the substance such that there is none left to dispose of. Registrants should only purchase and store those quantities of controlled substances needed for current research or instructional activities. Controlled substances that are expired, surplus, or contaminated must be disposed of in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations. Controlled substances and other pharmaceuticals must **never** be drain disposed or thrown out in the regular garbage.

Disposal of a controlled substance must render it non-retrievable. According to the DEA, “the process utilized to render a substance ‘non-retrievable’ shall permanently alter the substance’s physical or chemical condition or state through irreversible means and thereby render the substance unavailable and unusable for all practical purposes. A substance is considered ‘non-retrievable’ when it cannot be transformed to a physical or chemical condition or state as a controlled substance analogue.” The University approved method of disposal is via a reverse distributor as the Office of Safety cannot take possession of DEA controlled substances. DEA registrants must contact the UND-contracted and approved reverse distributor vendor. The DEA registrant must have a valid DEA registration to dispose of these products. The vendor will ask that various forms be completed and submitted for their approval. Once the forms are accepted, the vendor will send shipping boxes to send the products to them for their disposal. A copy of the disposal information will be received and must be kept on file for a minimum of three years. The DEA registrant will be responsible for any and all costs of disposal of DEA controlled substances as billed by the vendor.

If the lab is closing or the PI is retiring, the PI must dispose of those controlled substances prior to closing the lab or before allowing the DEA registration to expire. Abandoning controlled substances is a violation of the DEA regulations and the PI who owns them may be subject to punishment which may include fines and imprisonment. If abandoned controlled substances have been discovered, contact Office of Safety at (701) 777-3341 immediately for proper disposal.

Disposal of dilutions and mixtures

When a controlled substance is consumed in a reaction or converted into a hazardous waste mixture, the quantity of controlled substance used should be removed from your controlled substances inventory. Excess dilutions or mixtures must be labeled, separated, and stored in the designated controlled substance secure storage cabinet until ready for disposal. Maintaining these substances separately within the same cabinet where inventory is stored is acceptable. The approved method of disposal is by transferring to a reverse distributor. No amount of controlled substance is to be poured down a drain for disposal.

Disposal of broken or damaged containers

If a container of a controlled substance is inadvertently broken or damaged, the incident must be documented in the controlled substances inventory as “unintentional destruction” with the

amount of controlled substance lost listed. A witness should sign and date this entry, if possible. All spill cleanup residues and materials used in the cleanup must be disposed of appropriately per this policy. Contact the Office of Safety for assistance.

Disposal of stock bottles

Empty stock bottles of controlled substances must have the label removed or rendered unreadable prior to disposal. In addition, disposal of the empty vial must be logged among the DEA registrants' records. The empty bottle can then be disposed of with non-regulated waste.

Disposal of medical materials and supplies

Needles, syringes, catheters and other medical devices used in the administration of controlled substances must be disposed appropriately according to University policy along with city, state, and federal regulations. Unused drugs must not be left behind in syringes or catheters for disposal. Drugs must be emptied as much as reasonably possible and consolidated for appropriate disposal.

Disposal of other pharmaceuticals

All pharmaceutical substances, including those that are not considered controlled substances, must be properly disposed in accordance with city, state, and federal regulations. Some are considered a regulated hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, even materials that are not regulated as a hazardous waste can pose hazards when released into the environment. Drain disposal of waste pharmaceuticals is illegal and is a violation of the campus wastewater discharge permit. To ensure your lab is in compliance with regulations and to avoid polluting the environment and our drinking water, arrange for disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals by submitting a Waste Disposal Manifest Form to the Office of Safety.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Safety	701-777-3341
Director for Safety	701-777-3759
Biological Safety Officer	701-777-2444
Environmental Health & Safety Manager	701-777-5931
UND Police Department	701-777-3491