

Disposal of Chemical Wastes

Two types of wastes are generated during the chemical analyses. Those that can be classified as non-hazardous in nature (to both humans and the environment), and those classified as hazardous in nature. Thus, the separation of these two types of wastes is a must for proper disposal.

Non-Hazardous Waste Disposal

All wastes generated during the Dissolved Oxygen, Biochemical Oxygen Demand, pH, Nitrate Screen, Total Phosphate, and Turbidity (LaMotte only) tests should be disposed of in this way:

Use a capped container and collect all the wastes in this container while at your river site. These wastes will not react together when mixed; thus there should be no concern with respect to the formation of toxic gases or explosions. Then, these wastes can be taken back to the lab and disposed of down the sink drain. Be sure to run a sufficient quantity of water through the drain in order to prevent corrosion of the pipes.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Fecal coliform tests produce active fecal coliform colonies and therefore should be disposed of properly. Add 1 tablespoon of bleach to the petri dish, tape it closed and dispose of in trash container.