



Pollution Prevention in the Laboratory

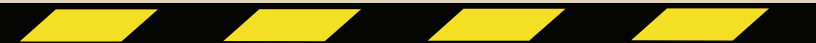


Environmental Services Department

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The Sewer Use Ordinance is designed to protect the City's Collection System, Wastewater Treatment Plant, public health, and the environment.

Before you pour anything down the drain you are responsible for making sure that it will not violate Municipal Code. If you have hazardous waste it is common sense that it can not go down the drain, but what about non-hazardous waste? Consult reference materials, ask the manufacturer, or call the Environmental Services department if you need help determine if your waste can go down the drain.

Disposal of Unacceptable Wastes

Waste not permitted to be discharged into the community sewer must be transported to a State approved disposal site.

Hazardous Waste Generators

Most laboratories generate some type of hazardous waste. Common waste types include:

Organic solvents
Diverse laboratory wastes
Mixed radioactive wastes
Surplus chemicals

Are you a Hazardous Waste Generator?

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control classifies generators of hazardous wastes into three categories:

Small Quantity Generator
Large Quantity Generator
Episodic Generator

It is your responsibility to know if you are classified as a generator and to abide by the rules and regulations specific to your classification.

For more information on City of Arcata Municipal Code and disposal of laboratory wastes go to:

www.cityofarcata.org

www.dtsc.ca.gov

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>

Use of the Public Sewers

Prohibitions on discharges

No person shall discharge wastes to a community sewer which cause, or threaten to cause, or are capable of causing either alone or by interaction with other substances:

- *a fire or explosion*
- *danger to life or safety of personnel*
- *a strong offensive odor or prevention of the effective maintenance or operation of the treatment works*
- *air pollution by the release of toxic or malodorous gases or malodorous gas-producing substances*
- *interference with the wastewater treatment process*
- *the City's effluent or any other product of the treatment process, to be unsuitable for reclamation and reuse or to interfere with the reclamation process*
- *a detrimental environmental impact or a nuisance in the water of the State or a condition unacceptable to any public agency having a regulatory jurisdiction over the City*
- *discoloration or any other condition in the quality of the City's treatment works' effluent such that receiving water quality requirements established by law cannot be met*
- *conditions at or near the City's treatment works which violate any statute or any rule, regulation, or ordinance of any public agency or State or Federal regulatory body*
- *the City's treatment works to be overloaded or cause excessive collection or treatment costs, or may use a disproportionate share of the facilities.*

Local Limits

The City has set numerical limits on certain constituents. All discharges meeting any of the following criteria are in violation of the Municipal Code.

Constituent	Limit
pH	< 5 or > 9.5
Oil & Grease	> 50 mg/L
Temperature	> 150°F