



Environmental Safety Division

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Ethidium Bromide Waste Disposal

Ethidium bromide is not regulated by the EPA as hazardous waste. However, UGA manages ethidium bromide using the same methods as hazardous waste due to the mutagenic properties of the substance. Ethidium bromide waste, including gels and stock solutions, should not be poured down the drain or placed in the regular trash. Any ethidium bromide waste should be maintained using hazardous waste procedures and submitted for pickup through Chematix.

ESD provides pre-labeled pails to collect ethidium bromide gels and debris in that say “Non-RCRA regulated waste”. It is important that these pre-labeled pails be used since they accurately reflect the regulatory status of the waste. Please use the Hazardous Waste Supply Request Form found on our [website](#) to have a pail pre-labeled pail delivered to your lab.

Ethidium Bromide Gel Management

1. Place gels and contact debris in pre-labeled pails, lined with a plastic bag. Please do not fill more than 75% full.
2. **Do not** use red biohazard bags; pickup will be refused until contents are transferred to another container. Ensure that containers/bags are not leaking.
3. When creating a waste tag through Chematix for ethidium bromide gels, please find “ethidium bromide gels” under your global hotlist. It is important that this option be used since the Chematix tag will print differently than normal hazardous waste tags.

Ethidium Bromide Stock Solutions and Buffer Solutions

1. These items can be disposed-of using regular Chematix waste labeling and pickup request procedures
2. OR through treatment of the buffer solutions using activated charcoal and then drain disposal. Kits such as the EtBr GreenBag® Disposal Kit can effectively treat buffer solutions and allow for drain disposal of the filtrate. If this method is used, the charcoal or kits must be submitted to Chematix as Hazardous Waste.
3. Contaminated debris can be placed in the same bag or container as gels and submitted to Chematix.

Please contact the ESD Hazardous Materials Program at (706) 542-5801 or hazmat@uga.edu with any questions about the management of Ethidium Bromide Waste.