

The Ministry of the Environment under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and the City of Ottawa's Sewer Use Bylaw, prohibit the discharge of hazardous chemicals into the sewer system.

Proper waste disposal is not only the safe and responsible thing to do, but is also a legal requirement.

At Carleton University, staff and students are discouraged from discharging non-household type wastes into drains and sewers. It is recognized, however, that low concentration wastes can be discharged as long as they do not negatively impact the environment, or affect the University's compliance with the Sewer Use By-Law.



Permissible discharges are

1. Acid and base solutions with a pH in the range of 5.5 and 11.
2. Physiological salt and buffer solutions at concentrations up to 1%, and in volumes not exceeding 10 litres

3. Restricted substances at concentrations within discharge limits listed in City of Ottawa Sewer Use Regulations
4. Radioactive materials discharged in accordance with the CNSC regulations and the University Radioisotope Permit conditions.
5. Sterilized liquid biomedical waste
6. Ethanol solutions at less than 24%



HOWEVER...the following must be taken into consideration

Prohibited discharges are

1. Matter of any type, at any temperature or in any quantity, which may:
 - ✓ Represent a health or safety hazard to a sewer worker
 - ✓ Interfere with the proper operation of the sewage works
 - ✓ Impair or interfere with the sewage treatment plant process
 - ✓ Pass, untreated, through the sewage treatment plant, e.g. heavy metals and toxic organics
 - ✓ Cause the biosolids to fail to meet the criteria for beneficial reuse
 - ✓ Result in a hazard to any person, animal, property or vegetation.
 - ✓ Result in the production of hazardous gases of such quality that prevents a manhole lid from being lifted

2. Solid or viscous matter in quantities or of such size that they may obstruct the flow in a sewer
3. Sewage that may cause an offensive odour (e.g. sulphur compounds, amines or ammonia, pyridine, mercaptans)
4. Sewage, which consists of two or more separate liquid layers
5. Sewage containing sufficient dyes or coloring material to discolour treatment plant outflow

Liquid Waste Disposal Procedure

Bulk non-acidic organic solvents in 10L waste jugs and label with "organic waste".

Keep other liquid chemical waste in separate, sealed, labeled containers.

Dispose of as per Faculty procedures.

REMINDERS

- Dilution cannot be used to meet the limits.
- Label all waste containers.
- Hazardous waste must be stored in a secure location.
- Hazardous waste must not be stored for longer than 3 months.

For Additional Information:

1. <http://www6.carleton.ca/ehs/programs/hazardous-waste-management-program/>
2. <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/sewers-and-septic-systems/discharge-limits-and-prohibited-substances>
3. Environmental Health and Safety at ehs@carleton.ca or at ext. 3000