

PROHIBITION AGAINST THE DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES TO THE SANITARY SEWER

Please be aware that at Berkeley Lab, pouring hazardous substances down sink drains is strictly prohibited. Hazardous substances include such things as acids, solvents, cleansers, and photo-finishing chemicals, which can be a problem even in minute quantities.

BERKELEY LAB'S WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT

Our wastewater discharge permit from the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) puts strict limits on the substances that we can put down our sinks and into the sewer. We need to be particularly careful of solvents and acids, solvents because they often contain chlorinated hydrocarbons, and acids because they affect the pH of our wastewater. Chemicals in the wastewater can:

- upset EBMUD's treatment plant operations
- Cause direct harm to the environment.
- Pose a hazard to unsuspecting employees working within the sewer system.
- Cause a violation of our permitted discharge limits.

REQUIREMENTS

Our EBMUD permit requires that samples be taken at specific times and that we report the results to EBMUD. In addition, EBMUD periodically samples the wastewater discharges from Berkeley Lab. If a limit is exceeded or a violation is noted, this can have repercussions in the form of fines, negative publicity, unproductive use of staff time in responding to violations, and the impression that the Lab is not operating in an environmentally responsible manner.

SPECIFIC LIMITS

The following limits have been imposed by EBMUD for specific substances:

Arsenic	2 mg/l	Mercury	0.05 mg/l
Cadmium, total	1 mg/l	Nickel, total	5 mg/l
Chlorinated hydrocarbons, total identifiable (TICH)	0.5 mg/l	Oil and Grease	100 mg/l
Chromium, total	2 mg/l	pH – not less than	5.5 S.U.
Copper, total	5 mg/l	Phenolic compounds	100 mg/l
Cyanide	5 mg/l	Silver, total	1 mg/l
Iron, total	100 mg/l	Temperature	150° F
Lead, total	2 mg/l	Zinc, total	5 mg/l

Please do your part in preventing the discharge of inappropriate materials to the sanitary sewer. If you have any questions as to what is inappropriate, or would like more information, please call Extension 7327.