

Information Sheet

Chemical Waste Disposal vs. Chemical Wastewater

Proper disposal of chemical waste

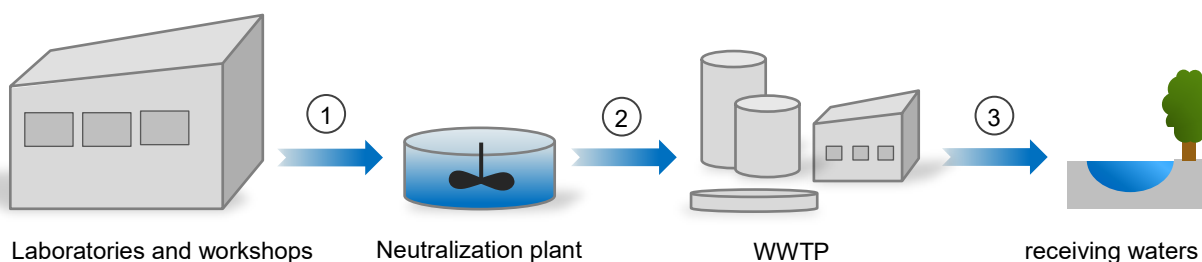
No longer required hazardous substances as well as chemicals and chemical waste from laboratories and workshops must not be poured down the sinks – this holds true for small quantities too. Even prior dilution and mixing with other substances does not allow for such a disposal. Chemical waste must be brought to one of ETH's hazardous waste disposal stations where it will be disposed of in compliance with the law.

Legal foundation

- Waters Protection Act (WPA)
- Waters Protection Ordinance (WPO)

Explanations

Sinks in ETH laboratories and workshops are connected to the ETH chemical wastewater network. The network includes a neutralization plant where the pH-value of the wastewater is adjusted by adding acids and bases. After the neutralization process, the wastewater is discharged into the public sewage network that leads to the local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). There, wastewater passes through different treatment levels that remove pollutants from the water. Finally, treated wastewater is discharged into receiving waters such as streams and rivers.



- ① chemical wastewater
- ② pH-neutral chemical wastewater
- ③ treated chemical wastewater

The neutralization process does not eliminate or filter out pollutants from the chemical wastewater! It only adjusts the pH-value. Thus, polluted wastewater is discharged into the public sewage system and transported further to the local WWTP without prior treatment. For this reason, the operation of the WWTP can be affected and/or the receiving waters polluted.

How to act

- Do not pour chemicals down the sink.
- Bring your chemical waste to one of ETH's hazardous waste disposal stations.
- Make your coworkers aware of misconduct.
- Label your sinks with the prohibition sign "No chemicals in the sink!"¹



¹ Available in the SSHE "[Order Catalogue for Safety Labeling](#)" →



The opening hours of the hazardous waste disposal sites can be found on the SSHE website and via the attached QR code.

For appointments outside the designated opening times and collections by arrangement please get in touch with sgu-sonderabfall@ethz.ch → or use our [online form](#) →.

In case of questions, you are welcome to contact us via sgu-sonderabfall@ethz.ch →.

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