American Association of Chemistry Teachers

DISPOSAL QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

CHEMICALS THAT MAY BE DISPOSED OF IN REGULAR TRASH AND LABORATORY DRAIN

TRASH

To be safely disposed of in regular trash items must be:

- Non–radioactive
- Non–biological hazard
- Not flammable, reactive, corrosive, or listed as hazardous waste per the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Not a substance that may negatively affect human or environmental health
- Not a carcinogen

DRAIN

Which Chemicals are acceptable for drain disposal?

- Those that meet criteria for trash disposal
- Acids and bases with pH between 5.5 and 10.5
- Combinations of the following cations and anions (unless they are strong acids or bases):

CATIONS

Al^{3+}	NH_4^+	Ca^{2+}	Cs^+
H^+	Li^+	Mg^{2+}	K^+
Na^+	Sr^{2+}	Sn^{2+}	Zr^{2+}
Fe^{2+}/Fe^{3+}		Ti^{3+}/Ti^{4+}	

ANIONS

HCO_3^-	HSO_3^-	BrO_3^-	Br^-
CO_3^{2-}	ClO_3^-	Cl^-	OH^-
IO_3^-	I^-	NO_3^-	NO_2^-
O^{2-}	PO_4^{3-}	SO_4^{2-}	SO_3^{2-}
BO_3^{3-}	$B_4O_7^{2-}$	OCN^-	SCN^-

REMEMBER: Use laboratory sinks only, and never a storm drain that goes directly to a water source without treatment

For further details, visit teachchemistry.org/disposal