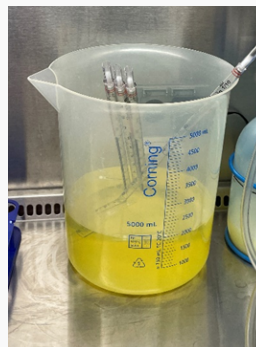


# LAB SAFETY QUICK FAQs

JULY 2025

## DO I NEED TO SOAK MY DISPOSABLE TISSUE CULTURE PLASTICWARE IN BLEACH BEFORE DISPOSAL?



No. Do not soak disposable tissue culture plasticware in bleach before disposal. This practice has led to sharps waste—such as pipette tips and other plastic items—ending up in sink traps and plumbing lines, causing clogs, risking injury to maintenance staff, and damaging building infrastructure.

All tissue culture sharps, including plasticware that could puncture a bag, must be placed directly into a reusable sharps container. Blood collection tubes must be sealed and disposed of in the same way. Do not pour blood down the drain.

The content of a reusable sharps container is disposed of as infectious waste. Therefore, disinfection (e.g., with bleach) of the waste is not required prior to disposal into the reusable sharps container.

## WHAT ADDITIONAL FIELDS ARE REQUIRED WHEN ENTERING NEW CONTAINERS INTO MY CHEMTRACKER INVENTORY?

When adding new chemicals to your ChemTracker inventory, be sure to complete the Location (space) and Unique Container ID (6-digit EHRS barcode number) fields. While ChemTracker does not enforce these fields at submission, leaving them blank will result in inventory discrepancies that must be resolved during audits or inspections. To ensure compliance and avoid follow-up actions, always enter this information when adding new containers. For more guidance, refer to [ChemTracker User's Guide](#). To request 6-digit EHRS barcodes for your lab, use our [Warning Sign and Label Request Form](#).

# LAB SAFETY QUICK FAQs

JULY 2025

## HOW DO I NOTIFY EHRS THAT MY LAB IS RELOCATING OR CLOSING?

Submit the [Notification of Lab Move or Closure webform](#) when your lab is preparing to move or close. We encourage you to submit the webform as soon as possible so that we can help your lab responsibly shutdown operations and prepare to vacate. Refer to these [Lab Close-Out Procedures](#) for tasks that are required before the lab is vacated.

When your lab move is complete, submit the [Request Changes to BioRAFT Lab Locations webform](#) for assistance in adding/removing spaces listed in your BioRAFT profile and electronically relocating your remaining ChemTracker records to your new lab space.

## CAN I USE A SONICATOR OR HOMOGENIZER ON THE BENCHTOP OR IN THE COLD ROOM WITH BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS?



No. Using an open sonicator or homogenizer in a cold room, other enclosed space, or open lab does not ensure containment due to the potential for significant aerosol generation during use. Sonication or homogenization of hazardous chemicals, biological materials, and recombinant materials must be moved to a Biosafety Cabinet, similar containment device, or by utilization of an appropriate local exhaust system. This includes E. coli and other plasmids or cloning strains that are otherwise considered not hazardous, since they are recombinant material. Use ice to maintain temperature needs. For more guidance, refer to [Aerosol Producing Equipment](#). Please reach out to the Biosafety team at [biosafety@lists.upenn.edu](mailto:biosafety@lists.upenn.edu) if you have questions or would like to discuss.

To help labs move away from use of 20L containers of methylene chloride, Fisher Scientific is now offering special pricing of \$30.31 on 4L containers of option part# D37-4, [Methylene Chloride \(Stabilized/Certified ACS\)](#), [Fisher Chemical 4 L.I. Buy Online | Fisher Scientific](#). This will be available online and in the Penn Chemistry Stockroom.

[Click here for archive of Lab Safety Quick FAQs.](#)