

# PROPER DISPOSAL OF ETHIDIUM BROMIDE

## GENERAL INFO. ABOUT ETHIDIUM BROMIDE:

- While not regulated as a “hazardous waste”, the mutagenic properties of this substance may present a hazard if improperly disposed of down the drain or placed into the trash.

## HOW DO I DISPOSE OF WASTE?

- Submit a waste pickup request through the OESO [Lab Safety & Waste Management System](#).

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION

Box 3914 DUMC  
Durham, NC 27710

Phone: 919-684-2794  
Fax: 919-681-2422

[www.safety.duke.edu](http://www.safety.duke.edu)

Ethidium Bromide forms	Proper collection and disposal
Dilute Aqueous Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions containing <b>less than 10 µg/ml</b> ethidium bromide by weight may be discharged to sinks, while flushed with copious amounts of water</li> <li>• Solutions containing <b>more than 10 µg/ml</b> by weight can be:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filtered through commercially available carbon filter cartridges to remove ethidium bromide. Spent cartridges or bags must be collected in waste containers labeled with the words “Waste Ethidium Bromide (Mutagen)” and submitted to OESO for proper disposal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Ethidium Bromide Gels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spent ethidium bromide gels should be collected in double-bags and placed into a waste container labeled with the words “Waste Ethidium Bromide (Mutagen)” and submitted to OESO for proper disposal.</li> <li>• Do not use biohazard bags or bags with the biohazard symbol.</li> <li>• Ethidium Bromide Gels should not be placed into the regular trash for disposal.</li> </ul>
Unused Stock Solutions, Crystals, and Powders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect in waste containers labeled with the words “Waste Ethidium Bromide (Mutagen)” and submit to OESO for proper disposal.</li> </ul>
Contaminated Debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contaminated gloves, mats, tips, or spill clean-up waste should be collected in clear plastic bags, double-bagged for leak protection, labeled as “Waste Ethidium Bromide (Mutagen)”, and submitted to OESO.</li> </ul>