Disposal of Hazardous Substances

Safe disposal of hazardous substances is dependent on the nature of the hazard, and the quantity of substance involved. Guidelines for disposal of small quantities of some of the more common hazards are available from the Brisbane City Council [website](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/environment-waste/rubbish-tips-bins/household-hazardous-waste#disposal_methods). In general

* Cleaners and disinfectants can be flushed down the drains with plenty of water
* Cooking oil, floor cleaners, paint and resins can be put in the rubbish bin
* Most other household hazards (including fluorescent light bulbs) can be dropped off at transfer stations, and so should be stored safely until sufficient quantities are accumulated.

Disposal of other hazardous substances needs to be decided on a case by case basis, and consultation with The Edge WHS officer is recommended.

Wherever possible, hazards will be neutralized before disposal, for example by

* allowing toxic glues and resins to harden before disposal as inert solid waste
* neutralizing strong acids with sodium bicarbonate and strong bases with excess acetic acid (followed by sodium bicarbonate) before flushing down the sink with plenty of water
* collecting materials and storing them safely in the locked chemical store in properly labelled containers before ultimate disposal at a council waste facility.

Biological hazards will be minimised as much as possible through the use of non-hazardous organisms and growth media. Specific hazard control systems will need to be developed and implemented if potentially hazardous organisms are introduced. If necessary, disposal will be in a bagged form through the solid waste removal system, after chemical or heat sterilization.