

SAFETY ALERT

GENERAL WASTE DISPOSAL IN CERTIFIED FACILITIES



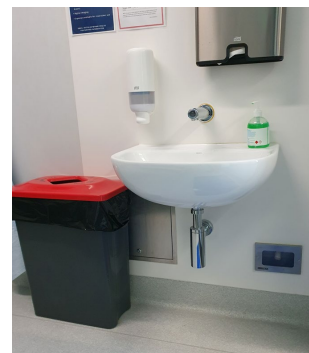
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Location of general waste bins in PC2 facilities

General waste bins must only be located at the facility entrance next to the hand basin in PC2 facilities.

Only hand washing paper towel waste and clean waste such as packaging from goods unpacked on a clean bench is to be disposed into the general waste bin.



What you need to do now.

Decontaminate and remove any additional general waste bins within PC2 facilities leaving only those located at handwash stations at facility entrance/s.

What happened.

There has been a number of issues and incidents relating to general waste bins in restricted areas reported by cleaners in recent months.

It has also been identified that there are additional general waste bins in some PC2 facilities which should not be there, Locating general waste bins near laboratory work activities increases the risk of lab generated or contaminated waste, including used consumables, being placed into them.

Who does this impact.

The process outlined will reduce the risk of injury to cleaning staff and other contractors handling general waste and will also reduce the risk of incorrect disposal of lab generated waste by facility users in both research and teaching facilities.

What the university is doing.

University Cleaners complete an induction before they are approved to work in PC2 facilities.

Recommended ongoing actions.

Update local PC2 facility inductions to include this information.

Background/Related info.

At University campuses* cleaners are inducted to only enter PC2 facilities and empty the general waste bin located at the entrance near the hand basin, which they also clean and maintain. Where the facility has more than one entrance and associated hand basin, cleaners will exit the facility through the door they entered and then re-enter through the other entrance/s to attend to the hand basin and general waste bin before exiting. This eliminates the need for cleaners to walk through the laboratory work area.

*The HMRI cleaning procedure differs slightly from other sites and further information can be provided by FM@hmri.com.au

Contact the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team healthandsafety@newcastle.edu.au if further information is required.