



# ECKERD COLLEGE

## Safe Operating Procedure (2/09)

### ETHIDIUM BROMIDE DISPOSAL

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Ethidium bromide (EtBr) is a strong mutagen that warrants special handling and disposal procedures, as described below.

**Unused EtBr** must be tagged for collection by Facilities

**Solvent solutions containing any amount of EtBr** must be tagged for collection by Facilities

**Gels containing EtBr** should be placed into the waste gel box for drying and disposed of as a lab pack or Alternately, EtBr gels can be tagged for collection by Facilities

**To dispose buffer containing EtBr:**

- Place the extractor device (without lid) on any suitable implosion-proof container with a neck diameter from 33-45mm (Erlenmeyer flask)
- Place glass fiber pre-filter (included in extraction package) on top of the carbon filter in the extractor device
- Attach  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-  $\frac{1}{4}$ " vacuum tubing to the Extractor tubing adapter
- Hold unit while applying vacuum
- Slowly pour up to 500ml of EtBr staining buffer waste into the top to the Extractor unit additional volume can be added immediately as the liquid level in the unit will drop quickly.
- Upon Completion of filtration, shut off vacuum and disconnect tubing adapter. (if using a water aspirator, disconnect tubing prior to shutting off vacuum). Remove the Extractor unit from the receptacle.
- Note the amount of filtrate in the bottle and log this amount on the decontamination log (located on the Extractor device), as a record of the total amount of buffer decontaminated with each unit.
- The filtrate can be safely discarded by pouring down the sink, since 99% of the EtBr has been absorbed by the extractor device.
- After 10 Liters of staining buffer have been decontaminated, dispose of the Extractor device in the accordance with regulations set by the institution or locality for solid hazardous waste disposal.