

# Ethidium Bromide Disposal

- Unused Ethidium Bromide (EtBr): Collect for disposal by EHS.
- Aqueous solutions containing <5ppm (mg/L) EtBr: Dispose to the sanitary sewer.
- Aqueous solutions containing >5ppm EtBr: Chemically degrade using procedures outlined by EHS and dispose to the sanitary sewer. (Make sure these aqueous solutions do not contain heavy metals, organics, cyanides or sulfides).
- Solvent solutions containing any amount of EtBr: Collect for disposal by EHS.
- Any solution containing radioactivity and EtBr: Collect for disposal by the Radiation Safety Officer.
- Gels containing EtBr: Break up, chemically degrade, and dispose to the sanitary sewer, or collect for disposal by EHS. If possible, dry out gels prior to pickup by EHS to lower weight and disposal costs.
- Spill residues, gloves, pipette tips, etc. contaminated with EtBr: Bag and dispose to the regular garbage. If there is gross contamination, bag and collect for disposal by EHS.

## Chemical Degradation Procedures:

For every 100 ml of EtBr solution add 20 ml 5% hypophosphorous acid solution and 12 ml 0.5 M sodium nitrite solution. Stir mixture and after 20 hours neutralize with sodium bicarbonate and dispose to the sanitary sewer. Contact EHS for more information on this procedure.