

UAB SAFETY SHORT

Before sending equipment contaminated with chemical, biological, or radioactive materials to surplus, it must be decontaminated and affixed with the proper hazard release tag.

Decontamination Requirements:

- **Chemically Contaminated Equipment:** All equipment exposed to hazardous chemicals must be decontaminated before being transferred or stored.
- **Fixed Equipment:** Equipment such as chemical fume hoods must be decontaminated when a researcher vacates a lab.
- **Biohazardous Materials:** Equipment exposed to biohazards must undergo appropriate biological decontamination procedures, ensuring the elimination of all biohazardous residues.
- **Radioactive Materials:** Any equipment contaminated with radioactive substances or that don the radiation caution label must follow specific decontamination protocols as outlined by the Radiation Safety Office.

General Cleaning Procedures:

- **Chemical Decontamination:** Wipe down surfaces with a detergent solution followed by a water rinse to remove chemical contaminants. Please contact Chemical Safety for more information by emailing chemicalsafety@uab.edu.
- **Biohazard Decontamination:** Use a disinfectant and contact time suitable for the biohazard level, followed by a thorough cleaning with water. Please contact Biosafety for more information by emailing biosafety@uab.edu.
- **Radioactivity Decontamination:** Use an appropriate decontamination agent and confirm cleanliness with a wipe test. The Geiger Muller counter or other suitable device may be used as appropriate to the contaminant. Please contact Radiation Safety for more information by emailing radsafe@uab.edu.

Equipment Tagging:

- **EH&S Release Tag:** All decontaminated equipment must have an EH&S Safety Release Tag to ensure personnel are not exposed to hazardous materials when moving or maintaining the equipment. Remove the biohazard/radioactive/chemical label after decontamination.

How to Obtain an EH&S Release Tag:

- After decontamination of equipment contaminated with **chemical and/or biological** materials please send a completed [Equipment Safety Release form](#) to labmove@uab.edu. An EH&S representative will issue a safety release tag to be attached to the item before it is moved, or the lab is vacated. For equipment contaminated with **radioactive material** please fill out the [Radiation Equipment Safety Release form](#) and contact the Office of Radiation Safety at radsafe@uab.edu or (205) 934-2487.

By following these guidelines, laboratories can ensure a safe and compliant environment when handling hazardous materials. For questions or more information, please contact EH&S at 205-934-2487