

Waste and Recycling

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING



Include these materials:

Paper
 Newspapers
 Magazines
 Soft Cover Books
 Junk Mail
 Manila Folders
 Cardboard
 Paper Bags
 Beverage Cartons
 Pizza Boxes (no grease)
 Tissue Boxes
 Take-Out Containers

Confused About Plastic?

That's probably because the number on an item tells what it's made from, not where to recycle it.
 If you see a number 1-7, then recycle it. If it is hard plastic but doesn't have a number, put it in a blue recycling bin anyway.
 Do not include Styrofoam or plastic film (i.e. grocery bags, Ziploc bags, and plastic wrap) even though they may have a number 1-7.
 Plastic Film has its own designated stream that will be labeled either "Plastic Film" or "Plastic Bags".

Do not include:

Grocery, Newspaper, and Produce Bags
 Beverage Case Wrapping and Plastic Wrap
 Candy Wrappers
 Straws
 Packaging for Paper Products
 Light bulbs
 Ceramic and Pyrex Dishes
 Metal Cutlery
 Styrofoam Packaging
 Aerosol Cans
 Tissues and Paper Towels
 Recyclables Containing Food Waste

MIT Department of Facilities

Metal and Glass

Soda Cans
 Canned Food Containers
 Coffee Tins
 Aluminum Foil, Trays and Pie Plates
 Paper clips and Staples
 Bottle Caps
 Jar Lids
 Jars (lids OK)
 Bottles (caps OK)

MIT RECYCLES
recycling.mit.edu

Single Stream RECYCLING (Lab Specific)



Cardboard boxes



Pipette tip boxes and plastic chemical bottles (#1-7)

EMPTY your containers!



Metal cans used in shipping and foil

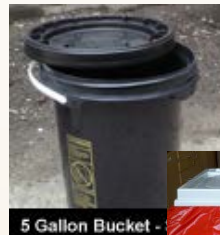


Glass chemical bottles



web.mit.edu/facilities/environmental
 March 2012

Hazardous Waste



5 Gallon Bucket



TechnoCycle



Items to Recycle in this Bin

Portable Devices
 Cell phones, PDAs, pagers, etc.
Media Storage
 CDs (cases and inserts OK), DVDs, video tapes, floppy disks, etc.
Computer Periphery
 Mice, wires, external drives, etc.

Items Not Accepted in this Bin

Batteries may be recycled in Battery Disposal bins available in every dorm and most DMCs. For more locations visit the Facilities recycling website.
Monitors, CPUs, and electronic waste under 50 lbs may be recycled by contacting recycling@mit.edu
Toner cartridges may be recycled in bins available in every DMC mailroom
Paper and Beverage containers may be recycled in centralized bins located in every building

IMPORTANT: Do not leave larger electronics here. Contact recycling@mit.edu for more information.
<http://web.mit.edu/facilities/environmental/reuse.html>

Step 1: Plan Ahead

- Start thinking about how to dispose of a material at the buying stage:
 - Can you purchase a less hazardous material?
 - Can you get a smaller size?
 - Will the material be able to go into a current lab waste stream, or will a new one need to be started?
- Is the material a peroxide former?
 - If yes, there are limits to how long the material can be stored prior to disposal.
- Look around your lab at the materials being used.
 - Is everything well-labeled?
 - Are there waste streams for those items?
 - Are there any “inherently waste-like” items in the lab?

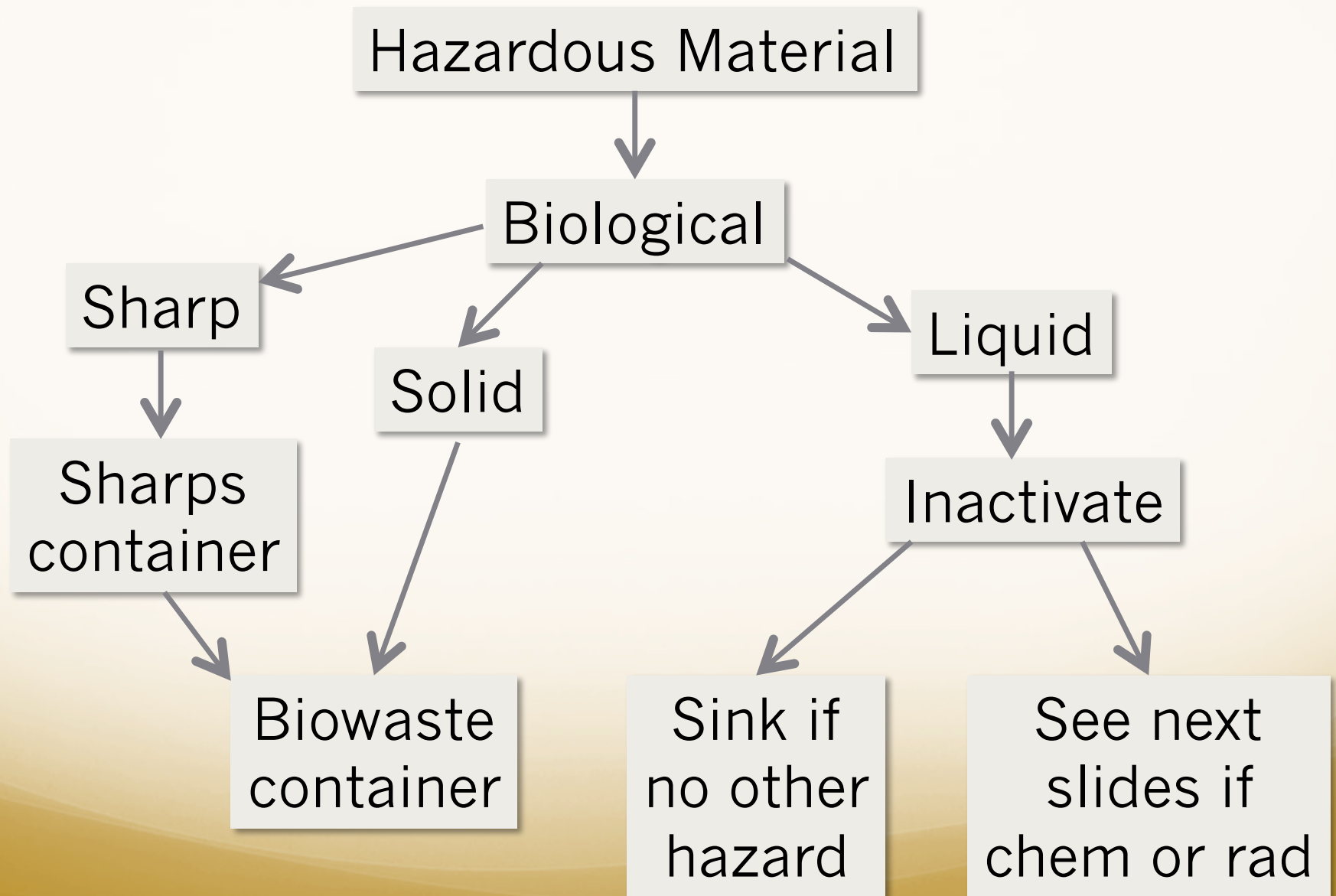
Step 1: Plan Ahead

- Example: Importance of labeling.
 - A lab recently had a chemical cleanout of materials left behind by researchers.
 - Many of the containers had no label, a faded label, or abbreviations that were unknown to the EHS rep.
 - After sorting through the materials to identify as many as possible, the lab was left with 34 unknowns.
 - Testing and disposal of these containers cost the lab \$1,700.
- Lessons learned:
 - Label all containers.
 - Ensure the lab has a chemical abbreviation list that includes all abbreviations in use by lab members. Update this list regularly.

Getting Rid of “Stuff”

- Can the item be reused?
 - Lab items:
 - Useful to others in lab?
 - Could other labs use item?
 - Non-lab items:
 - If clean and in working condition, bring to Choose to Reuse or post on Reuse listserv.
 - Packaging:
 - Does vendor have a take-back program?

Getting Rid of “Stuff”



Getting Rid of “Stuff”

Hazardous material

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graph TD; A[Hazardous material] --> B[Chemical]; B --> C[Sharp]; B --> D[Solid]; B --> E[Liquid]; C --> F[Red tag; Sharps container]; D --> G[Red tag; Solid waste container]; E --> H[Red tag; Liquid waste container];
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Chemical

Sharp

Liquid

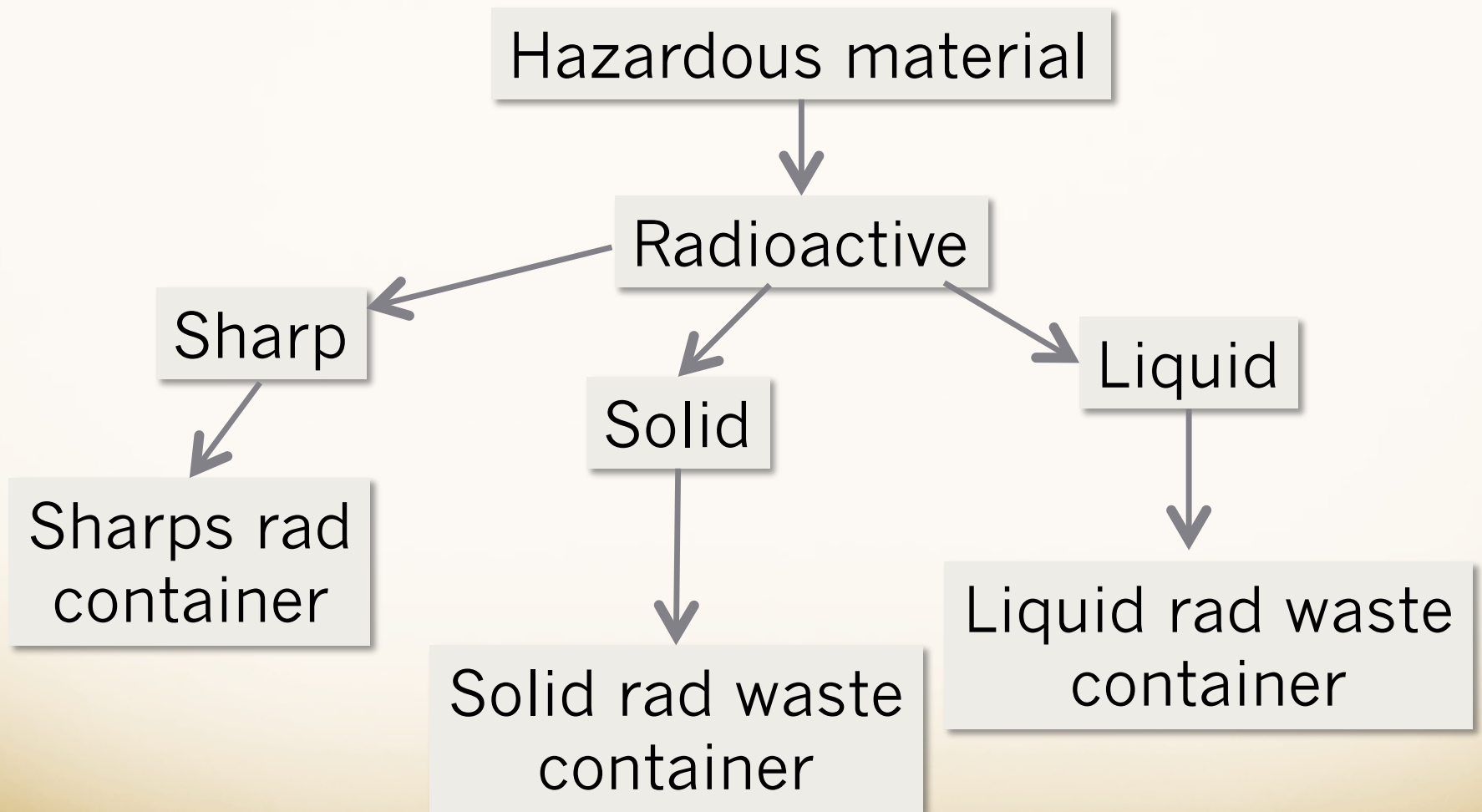
Solid

Red tag;
Sharps
container

Red tag;
Solid waste
container

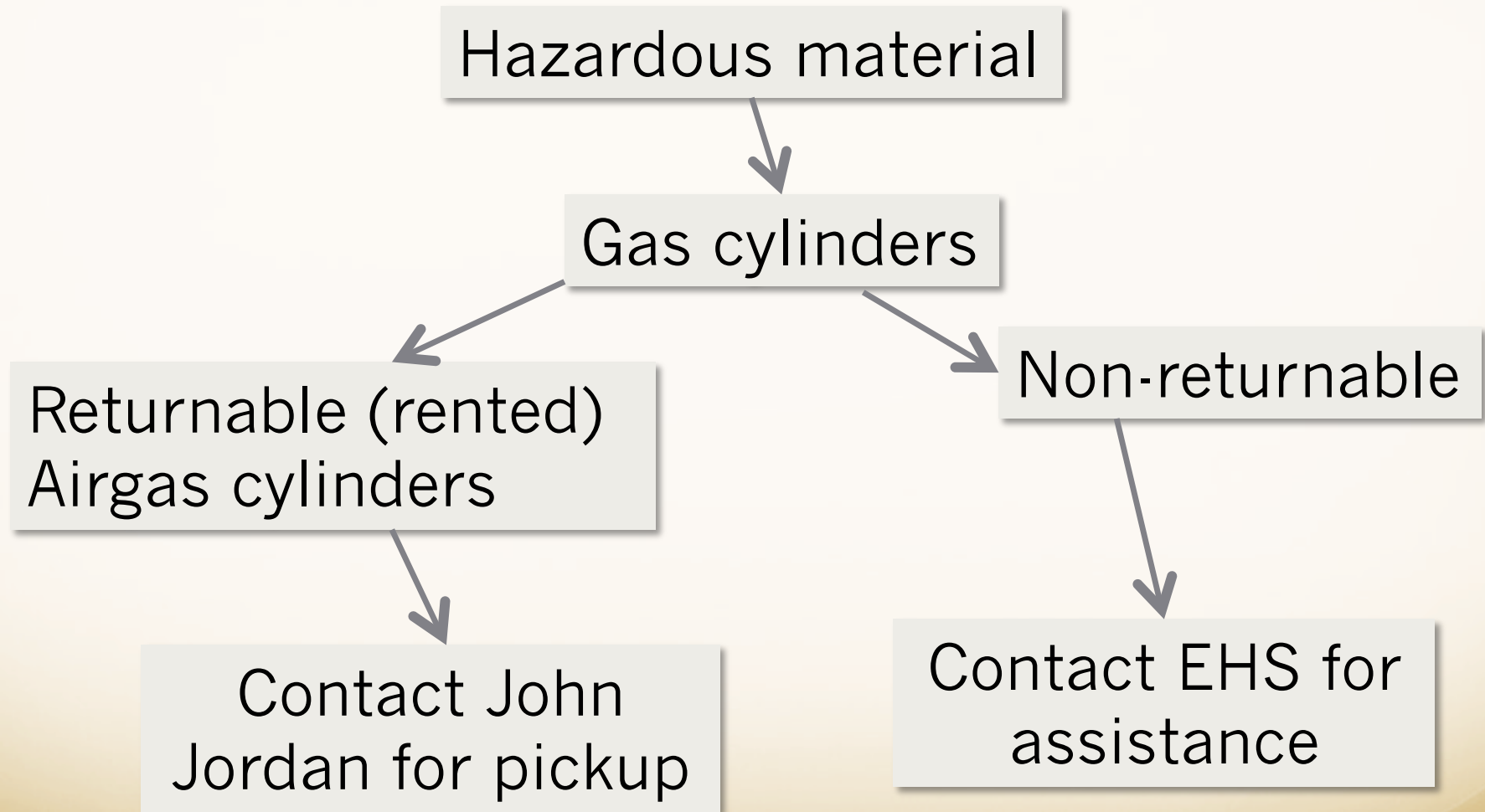
Red tag;
Liquid waste
container

Getting Rid of “Stuff”

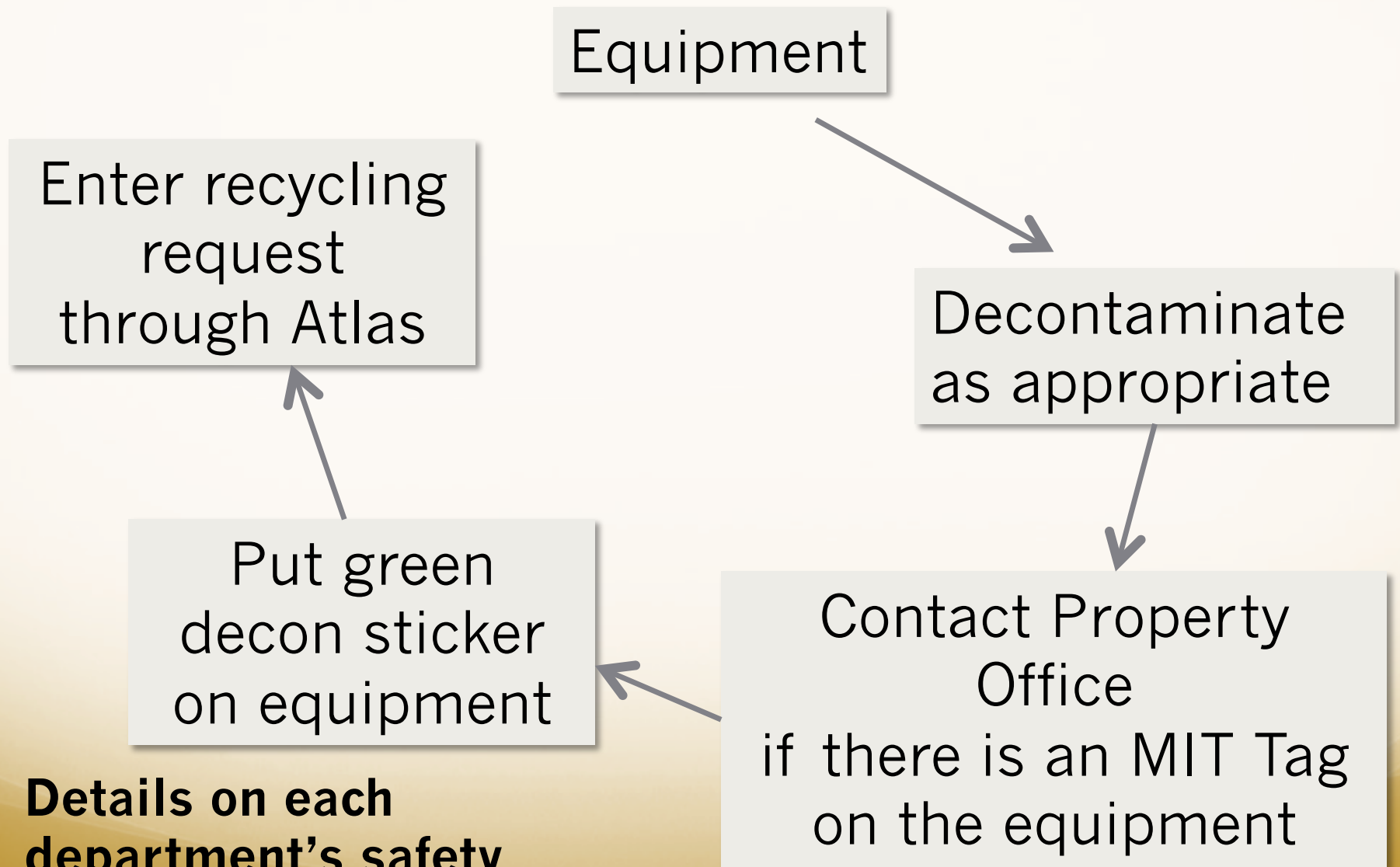


Note: Rad waste is segregated based on half-life; all rad waste must have a waste log sheet attached and filled out as items are added to waste.

Getting Rid of “Stuff”



Getting Rid of “Stuff”



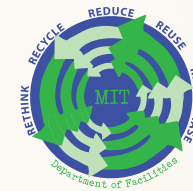
Details on each department's safety website.

Getting Rid of “Stuff”

Non-hazardous lab material

Single Stream RECYCLING (Lab Specific)

EMPTY your containers!



Cardboard boxes



Pipette tip boxes and plastic
chemical bottles (#1-7)



Metal cans used in
shipping and foil



Glass chemical
bottles

Getting Rid of “Stuff”

Other types of waste

- Aerosol cans – if can has (or had) flammable contents, treat as hazardous waste and red-tag.
- Batteries – battery recycling in mailrooms and VWR stockroom.
- eWaste – removed by Facilities through Atlas request
 - Copiers, computers, stereos, TVs, etc.
- Light bulbs – due to hazardous materials in light bulbs, treat as hazardous waste.
- Plastic bags – collection containers inside mailrooms.
- TechnoCycle - for small electronics
 - Containers inside mailrooms.
 - Examples: CDs, DVDs, cell phones, keyboards, mice, external drives, cables

Useful Links

- Lab Waste Stream Fact Sheet -
https://ehs.mit.edu/site/sites/default/files/secure/FS_0047.pdf
- Working Green at MIT -
<http://web.mit.edu/workinggreen/>
- Facilities Recycling Website -
<https://mit.edu/facilities/environmental/recycling.html>
- Facilities Trash Removal website -
<https://mit.edu/facilities/services/trash.html>
- EHS Waste Management Site -
<https://ehs.mit.edu/site/waste>

When in
doubt, ask!