Fact Sheet

Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE)
Proper Disposal of Field Test Kit Waste

Ammonia

In high concentrations ammonia can be toxic to aquatic life. High concentrations can be an indication of contamination from raw sewage, industrial effluents or fertilizer runoff.

To measure the concentration of ammonia in stormwater, an ammonia test kit, using a direct nesslerization method, can be used. The Nessler Reagent used in this method contains mercury.

Due to the mercury in the reagent, the test kit vial must be disposed of as hazardous waste. The vial should be placed in a sealed waste container once the test is complete and disposed of at a hazardous waste service facility*.

Due to the high alkali content of the Nessler Reagent this test kit has a shelf life of five months. If the test kit has not been used by this point it should be discarded into a sealed waste container and disposed at a hazardous waste service facility.

Chlorine

Chlorine is often used to treat drinking water, municipal wastewater and swimming pool water. Potassium iodide is used to determine the sum of the free and combined chlorine.

None of the chemicals used in the chlorine test are considered hazardous waste. Once the test is complete the vial can be disposed of in a waste stream that is safe for glass.

Surfactants

Surfactants originate from industry, soap manufacturers and private households.

The surfactants test kit allows the anionic detergents to react with the methylene blue active substance, which contains chloroform.

Chloroform is considered a hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly.

The ampoule containing the methylene blue solution should be placed in a sealed waste container once the solution has been emptied into the reaction tube. The excess solution from the reaction tube should be emptied into the same sealed waste container upon completion of the test. The vial with the flexible tube should be disposed of into its own sealed waste container. Once each waste container* has been filled they should be taken to a hazardous waste service facility.

**Check with your hazardous waste service facility for container requirements.*

Additional Information

All information was obtained through CHEMetrics and based on of CHEMetrics products. For more information about each test kit please visit www.chemetrics.com. Disposal information is based on federal and local regulations.

sde civil+environmental ENGINEERING

SDE has been providing IDDE field services since 2001. To find out more, check out sde-inc.com.

Contributors: Kalley Hansel, Stacey DePasquale and Garrett Bergey