# Water Bath Algicides

Updated November 2012

Did you know that copper can be hazardous to the local environment? Because of concerns that increased copper levels can harm fish and wildlife, state and federal regulators have required the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) to reduce the amount of copper released into the San Francisco Bay. It is very difficult to eliminate copper during the wastewater treatment process; therefore the RWQCP is looking for dischargers (Stanford and other cities) to reduce their copper use at the source instead of at the plant.

As a discharger into the City of Palo Alto's sewer system, Stanford University must abide by the City's wastewater requirements. One of the wastewater requirements affecting laboratory users is a copper limit of 0.25 mg/L for laboratory wastewater discharges. Many water bath algicides contain copper concentrations above the allowed discharge limit. Please check the algicide you are using; if copper is an ingredient in the algicide then it is most likely above our allowed discharge limit. Please dispose of the algicide through Environmental Health and Safety and purchase one of the non-copper alternatives below.

The following is a short list of several non-copper algaecides. There may be other non-copper algaecides available from companies not listed here. Phone numbers are listed after the company name if you wish to receive a copy of the MSDS.

1. Thermo Fisher Neslab Chloramine-T: For use at 1g per gallon, helps protect equipment and instrumentation. Recommended for constant temperature baths and recirculating chillers. Listed in Stanford SmartMart catalogue.

2. Thermo Scientific Revco Cleaning Agent: Thermo Scientific 23-030389, No.:6314TA AKA 6314TA Cleaning agent Lysol 3.5 LT cleaning agent germicide/algicide and deodorizer. Quaternary disinfectant-sanitizer for use in institutional and industrial facilities. Listed in Stanford SmartMart catalogue.

3. Fisher Bath Clear Algicide AKA Spectrum Clear Bath Algae Inhibitor: For use at 12 drops per gallon, to keep lab water bath clear and odor-free. Use in circulating baths, incubators, automatic analyzer baths, blood gas analyzer baths or other temperature controlled instruments. As of July 2011, not listed in Stanford SmartMart catalogue.

The following algicide contains copper. If you have this product in your inventory please have it properly disposed of through Environmental Health and Safety.

1. Perkin Elmer Las Inc, Algicide-jaz AKA Polyscience Clear Bath Algicide AKA H2O Bath Algicide from Grainger, Inc. CONTAINS COPPER.

If you have any questions please contact the Water Planning & Stewardship team at suwater.stanford.edu/wps.