

*American National Standard  
for Safe Use of Lasers*

**7.5.4 Laser and Laser Waste Disposal.**

**7.5.4.1 Laser Disposal.**

There are three basic ways to dispose of lasers that are no longer being used.

1. The first method is to give/donate the laser to an organization that can use it. Such organizations might be schools, industrial companies, hospitals, etc.
  - The donor should assure that the equipment being given complies with all applicable product safety standards, such as the FLPPS, and is provided with adequate safety instructions for operations and maintenance.
  - The donor should ensure that the laser will be used by individuals who are trained in laser safety. Another approach would be to return the laser to the manufacturer for credit onto a new laser if applicable.
2. The second method is to eliminate the possibility of activating the laser by removing all means by which it can be electrically activated. Once this has happened the laser could then be disposed.
3. The third method would be to destroy the laser.

The last two methods could have some land fill restrictions due to the possibility of hazardous materials being found inside the laser components, such as mercury switches, oils, and other chemicals.

**7.5.4.2 Laser Waste Disposal.**

Proper waste disposal of contaminated laser-related material, such as flue and smoke filters, organic dyes, and solvent solutions shall be handled in conformance with appropriate federal, state, and local guidelines.