

DIETHYL ETHER IN DRAINS

Workers in laboratories which don't use ether have reported smells and drowsiness caused by volatile solvents, one of which is diethyl ether.

The disposal of diethyl ether or other narcotic or flammable solvents down sinks is extremely dangerous and must never be done. Such wastes must be poured into a labelled waste solvent bottle.

Ether may find its way into other laboratories from drain pipes by way of dried out sink traps or leaking plumbing. While maintenance staff are undertaking urgent investigations into leaking plumbing, the primary cause is in the act of disposal.