



Biological Hazardous Waste Spotlight

Certain materials generated by research lab activities must be disposed of as “regulated medical waste.” The information presented in the Biological Hazardous Waste SOP will assist you with categories, packing and labeling waste materials that fall in the category of biohazardous or regulated medical wastes.

Solids – Includes lab materials that have come into contact with recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, human derived and BSL-1 and BSL-2 materials.

Collection – Materials should be collected in a leak proof container that is labeled biohazard.

Treatment and Disposal – All waste materials that have come into contact with BSL-2 agents/materials that could potentially cause infections in humans or animals must be treated prior to disposal as regulated medical waste. The preferred method of treatment is autoclaving. After the waste has been autoclaved, place into regulated medical waste in the biohazard red bag and then in the disposal box. The box must be:

- Properly labeled, sealed using clear tape, and stored in the “**authorized**” areas only
- Do not place more than 35 pounds of waste inside the bag/box

Liquids – liquids include bulk biological liquids such as clinical specimens.

Sharps – The following items are regulated as sharps, when generated in a laboratory that conducts research with non-exempt recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids; human or animal blood and body fluids, tissues or cells; and materials potentially infectious to humans, animals or plants (whether used or unused):

- Hypodermic needles
- Blood vials
- Glass capillary tubes
- Broken or unbroken glassware that can shatter that has been in contact with infectious agents

Collection – Sharps containers should be rigid, impervious to moisture and leak-proof, etc.

Treatment and Disposal – The sharps containers must be:

- Properly labeled, and placed inside of the regulated medical waste box and stored in the “**authorized**” areas only

Serological Pipettes and Other Unclassified Items – Laboratory glass and plastic waste items (i.e., test tubes, serological pipettes, etc.) that are not considered sharps can puncture regular waste bags and injure the janitorial staff.

Biologically Uncontaminated Pipettes - If these items **have not been in contact** with materials that contain infectious agents, place them into sturdy cardboard boxes that will not weigh more than 25 pounds when full, boxes sealed with packing tape and labeled “Laboratory Glass.”

Biologically Contaminated Pipettes – If these items **have been in contact** with potentially infectious materials, autoclave, dispose of autoclave, put locked sharps container into regulated medical wastes container, and place in the “**authorized only**” storage areas.