



Biohazardous Waste Guidance Chart

The chart below provides information on how to handle most, if not all, of the items that frequently are collectively referred to as “biohazardous waste”. Biohazardous waste is a term that encompasses a number of distinctly different waste streams, including biological waste, infectious waste, and medical waste. To make it easier for departments & laboratories to understand how these wastes must be handled in the laboratories and disposed of as waste the chart below gives clear information on specific items that are likely to be in your biohazardous waste stream. Please adhere to this chart and do not dispose of any material in any manner other than as described in this chart. Improper release of this waste into regular trash, dumpsters and landfills can expose the University and potentially your laboratory and department to substantial financial penalties by regulatory authorities and jeopardize funding from granting agencies.

Syringes and Needles

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove waste from your department.	Obtaining “sharps” waste containers	Comments
Red plastic “sharps” containers ONLY	NONE	Complete a Request for Hazardous Waste Collection form, then call the EH&S Officer x3035	Departments will obtain own containers from a vendor. For guidance call the EH&S Officer x3035	All syringes and needles are considered “medical waste”. NEVER manually detach a needle from the syringe, discard the entire system.

Broken glass contaminated with potentially infectious materials (human blood, body fluids, culture)

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	Requesting waste removal from your lab	Obtaining “sharps” waste containers	Comments
Red plastic “sharps” containers ONLY	NONE	Complete a Request for Hazardous Waste Collection form, then call the EH&S Officer x3035	Departments will obtain own containers from a vendor. For guidance call the EH&S Officer x3035	Use extreme care when picking up contaminated broken glass. Use tongs or forceps. Never use your fingers!



**Cloth contaminated with potentially infectious materials
(human blood, body fluids, culture)**

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	Requesting waste removal from your lab	Obtaining red "biohazard" waste bags	Comments
Red plastic BioHazard bags ONLY	NONE	Complete a Request for Hazardous Waste Collection form, then call the EH&S Officer x3035	Call the EH&S Officer x3035	Use extreme care; always handle with latex gloves and dispose of gloves along with cloth into red bag.

Scalpels

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove waste from your department.	Obtaining "sharps" waste containers	Comments
Red plastic "sharps" containers ONLY	NONE	Complete a Request for Hazardous Waste Collection form, then call the EH&S Officer x3035	Departments will obtain own containers from a vendor. For guidance call the EH&S Officer x3035	Scalpels are considered "medical waste". Never place these in the "regular" trash.

Glass slides and cover slips

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove waste from your lab	Obtaining "sharps" waste containers	Comments
Red plastic "sharps" containers OR Use a recycled cardboard box with sides and top labeled "Broken Glass".	NONE	Complete a Request for Hazardous Waste Collection form, then call the EH&S Officer x3035	Departments will obtain own containers from a vendor. For guidance call the EH&S Officer x3035	Do Not place these items in the "broken glass" container. Never place these in the regular trash.



Razor Blades

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	Requesting waste removal from your lab	Obtaining "sharps" waste containers	Comments
Red plastic "sharps" containers ONLY	NONE	Complete a Request for Hazardous Waste Collection form, then call the EH&S Officer x3035	Departments will obtain own containers from a vendor. For guidance call the EH&S Officer x3035	Do not leave razor blades out in the open and uncovered. Never place these in the "regular trash".

Glass Pasteur pipettes

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	Requesting waste removal from your lab	Obtaining "sharps" waste containers	Comments
Red plastic "sharps" container ONLY	AUTOCLAVE 121 degrees C for 60 minutes	Complete a Request for Hazardous Waste Collection form, then call the EH&S Officer x3035	Departments will obtain own containers from a vendor. For guidance call the EH&S Officer x3035	Do Not place in regular trash. Do not place in "broken glass" container.

Broken and unbroken glass with no contamination

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	Removing this waste from your lab	Obtaining "broken glass" containers	Comments
<p>"Broken Glass" box supplied by vendor.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Use a recycled cardboard box with sides and top labeled "Broken Glass".</p>	<p>All glass must be clean and uncontaminated by any biologicals, body fluids, radioactives, or visible chemicals.</p> <p>No liquids can be present in any pipettes or vials, etc.!!!!</p>	<p>When box is full, securely tape the box closed; make sure it is labeled <i>broken glass</i> and leave outside door for custodial staff.</p>	<p>"Broken Glass" containers may be purchased from approved vendors. Or you may use any durable cardboard box and prominently label sides and top "Broken Glass". <i>Put Room Number on container!</i></p>	<p>Use "common sense": Never fill the box so that glass objects protrude from the open end. If you use a large box it will be very heavy once filled with glass, keep the box size modest. Ensure that the box used is in good shape and can handle the weight of the glass. Use durable tape when sealing the box.</p>



Non-Pasteur plastic pipettes and tips contaminated with potentially infectious materials (human blood, body fluids, culture)

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove the waste from your lab	Obtaining appropriate waste containers	Comments
Red plastic "Biohazard" Bag Or Clear plastic "Biohazard" bag	AUTOCLAVE 121 degrees C for 60 minutes	After autoclaving, place the sterilized bag inside of the building dumpster.	The Biology Instructional Support Tech. has correctly labeled bags, contact x3486.	Individuals responsible for autoclaving waste must follow appropriate autoclave safety protocols. All autoclave waste must have autoclave tape affixed to the bag. Waste sterilization must be entered into the autoclave log

Plastic ware or other items contaminated with potentially infectious material (blood, body fluids, cultures)

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove the waste from your lab	Obtaining appropriate waste containers	Comments
Red, plastic autoclavable "Biohazard" bag Or Clear, plastic autoclavable "biohazard" bag	AUTOCLAVE 121 degrees C for 60 minutes	After autoclaving place the sterilized bag inside of the building's dumpster as regular trash.	The Biology Instructional Support Tech. has correctly labeled bags, contact x3486.	Individuals responsible for autoclaving waste must follow appropriate autoclave safety protocols. All autoclaved waste must have autoclave tape affixed to the bag Waste sterilization must be entered into the autoclave log.

Glass test tubes contaminated with potentially infectious materials (blood, body fluids, culture)

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove the waste from your lab	Obtaining appropriate waste containers	Comments
Red, plastic autoclavable "biohazard" bag Or Clear, plastic autoclavable "biohazard" bag	AUTOCLAVE 121 degrees C for 60 minutes	After autoclaving, place the sterilized bag inside of the building's dumpster as regular trash	The Biology Instructional Support Tech. has correctly labeled bags, contact x3486.	Individuals responsible for autoclaving waste must follow appropriate autoclave safety protocols. All autoclaved waste must have autoclave tape affixed to the bag. Waste sterilization must be entered into the autoclave log.



All other lab glass *Not Contaminated* with Infectious Material

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove the waste from your lab	Obtaining appropriate waste containers	Comments
Cardboard glass disposal box, pre labeled by vendor OR Ordinary cardboard box With each side prominently marked "Broken Glass".	All glass items MUST be empty, no liquid volumes allowed.	Seal the box closed with durable tape, duct tape works well. Ensure box is marked "Broken Glass" Place with regular trash.	Obtain pre-labeled boxes from University approved vendors OR Recycle cardboard boxes from your building.	Be mindful that these boxes are very heavy when full. No glass objects may protrude beyond the box. Place for custodial pick-up when 2/3 full.

Capillary Tubes

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove the waste from your lab	Obtaining waste containers	Comments
Red Sharps container	NONE	Complete a Request for Hazardous Waste Collection form, then call the EH&S Officer x3035	Call the EH&S Officer x3035	Capillary tubes break easily and pierce all bags used for collection of waste. Never place these in the ordinary trash

Contaminated and Uncontaminated Serological Pipettes (Plastic, long pipettes)

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove the waste from your lab	Obtaining appropriate containers	Comments
<u>Contaminated:</u> Pipette autoclave boxes <u>Uncontaminated:</u> regular cardboard boxes	<u>Contaminated:</u> Autoclave at 121 degrees C for 60 minutes. Be sure autoclave tape is on the container! <u>Uncontaminated:</u> None, dispose in dumpster.	<u>Contaminated:</u> after autoclaving, dispose in dumpster <u>Uncontaminated:</u> when cardboard box is full, dispose in dumpster.	<u>Contaminated:</u> Pipette autoclave boxes are available from the Biology Instructional Support Tech, x3486. <u>Uncontaminated:</u> Use cardboard shipping boxes, recycle!	Custodians do not like to see these items in regular trash. The pipettes puncture regular trash bags. Red and clear autoclave bags shrink when autoclaved, serological pipettes will puncture those bags if they are autoclaved. Use pipette containers!



All Culture Plates

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove waste from your lab	Obtaining appropriate waste containers	Comments
Red, plastic autoclave bag Or Clear, plastic autoclave bag	AUTOCLAVE 121 degrees C for 60 minutes Be sure autoclave indicator tape is on the bag.	After autoclaving, place the sterilized bag inside of the building's dumpster.	The Biology Instructional Support Tech. has correctly labeled bags, contact x3486.	Individuals responsible for autoclaving waste must follow appropriate autoclave safety protocols. All autoclaved waste must have autoclave tape affixed to the bag. Waste sterilization must be entered into the autoclave log

Tissue Culture Media

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove waste from your lab	Obtaining appropriate waste containers	Comments
Place in liquid container, Preferably non-breakable	NONE	Place containers in the Science Building temporary hazardous waste room.	The Biology Instructional Support Tech. has correct containers, contact x3486.	These items are not decontaminated on campus.

Animal Carcasses

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove waste from the lab	Obtaining appropriate waste containers	Comments
Do not place animals inside red biohazard bags unless the animals are infectious, diseased, or have been inoculated with a pathogen contagious to humans or other animal populations. Animals may be consolidated in five-gallon plastic buckets with screw-top lids closures.	NONE	Double-bagged animals shall be stored in laboratory freezers. Do not store in refrigerators or in open room! The Biology Instructional Support Tech. removes these items to a local incinerator facility.	The Biology Instructional Support Tech. is the only person who will handle this waste, contact x3486.	"Animals" shall mean mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, etc. Crustaceans, "shellfish", small fish, insects, etc., shall not be included in this category. These items may be placed in dark ordinary trash bags and disposed of in the building's dumpster. Animals that have been kept in preservatives must have all preservatives drained from the container by laboratory staff. The preservative must be identified. Preservatives shall be treated as chemical wastes and should be removed from the lab following safety procedures.



Plastic Ware, Gloves, and other items that are *not contaminated* with Infectious Materials or only used for media preparation

Disposal Container	On-Campus Treatment	To remove the waste from your lab	Obtaining appropriate waste containers	Comments
Regular trash container	No treatment required	Ordinary trash for routine custodial pick-up	Ordinary trash receptacle, obtained by lab.	Be mindful of heavy objects and long plastic pipettes that may puncture or tear the trash bag.

For "Biohazardous" waste items not identified in any of the charts in this reference, please contact the Environmental Health & Safety Office for guidance at: 667-3035.