

Biomedical Waste Guidelines

Biomedical waste includes:

- Human or animal specimen cultures from medical or pathology labs.
- Cultures or stocks of infectious agents from research or industrial laboratories.
- Wastes from the production or testing of bacteria, viruses, spores, vaccines, certain discarded animal vaccines, culture dishes, and devices used to transfer, inoculate, or mix cultures.
- Human or animal specimens, tissues, parts, fluids, or carcasses that are suspected of being contaminated with infectious agents known to be contagious to humans.
- Waste which contains recognizable fluid blood, fluid blood products, containers or equipment containing blood that is fluid, or blood from animals known to be infected with diseases which are highly communicable to humans.
- Discarded materials contaminated with excretion, exudate, or secretions from humans or animals that are contaminated with highly communicable diseases or diseases of animals that are highly communicable to humans.

Wastes that are mentioned above **AND** sharps waste generated or produced from:

- Diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals.
- Research pertaining to the above activities.
- The production or testing of biologicals (medicinal preparations made from living organisms and their products, including but not limited to, serums, vaccines, antigens, and antitoxins).
- The accumulation of properly contained home-generated sharps waste that is brought by a patient.
- Urine, feces, saliva, sputum, nasal secretions, sweat, tears, or vomitus that contains fluid blood.

Labeling

- Biomedical waste containers including red bags, bottles, sharps containers, and secondary containers must be labeled with the words "BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE" or with the international symbol and the word "BIOHAZARD".

Storage

- Biomedical waste must be contained separately from other waste at the point of generation.
- Solid biomedical waste must be placed in red bags, securely tied, and placed in secondary containment.
- Secondary containers must be rigid, leak resistant, have tight fitting covers, be clean, and in good condition.
- Biomedical sharps waste must be placed in an approved biohazardous sharps container that is rigid, puncture-resistant, leak-resistant when sealed, and cannot be opened without great difficulty.
- Solid biomedical waste, except for biomedical sharps waste, must be transferred to EH&S within 7 calendar days of being generated.
- Biomedical sharps waste must be transferred to EH&S within 7 calendar days of being approximately 2/3 full.

Liquid Biomedical Waste Disposal

- Mix 1-part household bleach to 9 parts liquid biomedical waste, wait 30 minutes, and dispose down the sanitary sewer drain.

Solid and Sharps Biomedical Waste Disposal

- Request a pickup by submitting a [Text a Pickup](#).
- Visit <https://www.ehs.uci.edu/enviro/haz-waste/text-to-pickup.php>.

Do not dispose of biomedical waste using sinks, drains, intentional evaporation, or as regular trash.