

Biohazardous Waste Disposal

Biohazardous waste is any material which is contaminated or likely to be contaminated with a pathogenic organism. A pathogenic organism is defined as a bacteria, viruses, fungi, prion or parasites which may have deleterious effects on humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants. Biohazardous material must be either decontaminated prior to disposal through the normal waste stream (i.e., landfill) or must be disposed of through a certified Biohazardous/biomedical waste company (such as Stericycle).

Material which can be decontaminated physically through an Autoclave or which can be chemically decontaminated may be disposed of through the regular waste stream only after decontamination.

All waste to be autoclaved must be placed in approved Biohazard bags (orange plastic with the Biohazard symbol on it). Once autoclaved successfully under the appropriate conditions, the bag should be labeled as "Decontaminated" and the date of the run should be written on the bag. The bag should be tied closed and placed in the waste container near the autoclave used. Never place autoclaved material in public waste containers.

Material which has been chemically decontaminated may also be disposed of through normal waste procedures, provided the chemical decontaminant has been thoroughly deactivated or rinsed off of the material.

Material such as sharps or tissue and some plastics which are biohazardous must be disposed of by a certified waste disposal company. Contact the Biosafety officer for details.

Biological Waste

Biological waste which is not biohazardous but is biological in origin (eg. carcasses or tissues,) should be frozen in leak proof plastic bags and then placed directly in exterior garbage containers. Under no circumstances should biological waste be disposed of in interior garbage containers at room temperature. Contact Science Facilities for assistance with this.

Paper towels, gloves, and other PPE and lab supplies may be disposed of through the normal waste stream provided they are not contaminated with Biohazardous agents.