

PROCEDURES FOR REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE REMOVAL CORNELL UNIVERSITY (Non-Vet College)

Containers

1. Sharps containers must be manufactured, rigid, leak proof and puncture-resistant (cardboard containers are no-longer allowed). Containers must also be in good condition with no holes or cracks and hold any liquid when standing upright.
2. Biohazard bags must be red in color and have the universal biohazard symbol on them. (EH&S recommends VWR cat. no. 11215-826 or 3mil. RMW bag)

Packing Procedures

1. Sharps must be placed in manufactured containers. The container lid must be secured as to prevent release of material and injury to personnel. No needles can be sticking through the locking enclosure.
2. Dry RMW (excluding sharps) must be double bagged in red biohazard bags. Waste must be re-bagged after autoclaving with a fresh biohazard bag. Bags cannot be leaking or have holes and cannot contain loose pipettes.
 - a. Pipettes must be placed in cardboard boxes within biohazard bags, packaged in biohazard burn boxes or bundled together by tape.
 - b. Bags must be sealed tightly and not come open during handling. It is best to use twist ties, plastic cable ties or sturdy tape (time tape is not sturdy).
3. Biohazard burn boxes must be lined with a biohazard bag. The bag must be closed and the lid fastened with sturdy tape (duct tape or packing tape).
4. Liquid RMW can be disposed in sanitary drain after autoclaving or after being treated with a 10-fold bleach solution for at least 30 minutes.
5. Carcasses and animal tissues that are non-infectious must be bagged in non-biohazard bags. The bags cannot be leaking or contain holes. Bags cannot contain excess plastics, gloves or pads. Black or dark trash bags are required.

Waste Removal

1. All items needing removal must be tagged. The top two lines of the tag must be completed and the appropriate waste information box checked. The tag must be securely fastened to the item, stapling or tape works best.
2. For labs that are not on a regular schedule, you must contact EH&S to request a RMW pick-up.
3. RMW pick-up is performed every Thursday morning. Request must be made to EH&S by 4:00pm Wednesday.
4. RMW pick-ups can be requested by phone 255-8200 or on the Web at www.ehs.cornell.edu under "Forms and Documents".