



# Environmental Health & Safety Tip Sheet

## Biological Waste Disposal Guide

*\*\* For use in Departments outside The College of Veterinary Medicine \*\**

Material	Contaminated with Biohazard Materials <sup>1</sup>	Contaminated with Non-Biohazard Materials <sup>2</sup>
Syringes (no needle at any time)	Sharps Disposal Container/ RMW	Puncture Resistant Container/ Regular Trash
Syringes with attached needles (hypodermic, HPLC, GC) Needles Razor blades Scalpels Blood vials	Sharps Disposal Container/ RMW	Sharps Disposal Container/ RMW
Pasteur or serological pipettes Micropipette tips Glass slides and cover slips Glass tubes and other glassware Broken plasticware	Sharps Disposal Container/ RMW <sup>3</sup>	Puncture Resistant Container/ Regular Trash
Plastic Petri dishes Plastic tubes, flasks, plates Gloves Benchpaper and towels Disposable Gowns	Red Biohazard Bag/ RMW	Regular Trash
Cell culture wastes Body fluids	Treat with Disinfectant or Autoclave/ Drain dispose (Sanitary Sewer only)	Treat with Disinfectant or Autoclave/ Drain dispose (Sanitary Sewer only)
Animal carcasses Tissues Bedding	Red Biohazard Bag/ Incineration <sup>4</sup>	Black Bag/ Incineration <sup>4</sup>
Ethidium bromide- contaminated Lab waste only, no gels	Red Biohazard Bag or Sharps Disposal Container/ RMW <sup>5</sup>	Per EH&S Guidelines <sup>6</sup>
Mixed Wastes <sup>7</sup>	Contact EH&S	Contact EH&S

### Footnotes

- Infectious agents, biological toxins, human blood and body fluids, infected animals and contaminated bedding, all human and animal cell cultures. Segregate in double, red biohazard bags or plastic, sharps disposal containers, and handle as regulated medical waste (RMW). Attach a medical waste tracking tag to each bag or container, and contact EH&S (255-8200) for pickup. Do not dispose in regular trash.
- Non-infectious human and animal agents, non-hazardous recombinant DNA organisms and products, plant and insect pathogens, and environmental organisms. Segregate in clear autoclave bags or a puncture resistant container such as a cardboard box. EH&S recommends that you treat this waste in an autoclave before disposal in the regular trash.
- In addition to a sharps disposal container, plastic pipettes and micropipette tips only may be:
  - Placed in a puncture resistant container and then packaged in a red biohazard bag, or
  - Placed in a cardboard box that is labeled with the biohazard symbol and is lined with a red biohazard bag, or
  - Placed in double or triple red bags to minimize breakthrough.
- Mixtures of animal carcasses or tissues with other items (e.g., plastic, paper) cannot be incinerated. Place this assorted waste in red biohazard bags and dispose as RMW.
- Follow the guidance for other wastes in this table. Indicate "CHEMO" in the comment line of the medical waste tracking tag.
- Dispose as per EH&S guidelines at <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/ehssecured1/epa/ethidium.bromide.htm>.
- Before creating any mixed waste, contact EH&S (255-8200) for guidance. This waste can include RMW or bio-based materials mixed with chemical hazardous and/or radioactive wastes. Contact EH&S to determine the appropriate treatment and disposal.