

How do I dispose of my biohazardous waste?



Safety Guide

"How do I...?"

Biohazardous wastes are

- *Recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules containing wastes: including animal wastes, transgenic plants, transgenic animals, and animal carcasses containing recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules.*
- *Items contaminated with liquid or semi-liquid human blood or other potentially infectious materials that would release human blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or dried state if compressed*
- *Contaminated sharps, and pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.*
- *Biologically active agents such as toxins, allergens, venoms that may cause disease in other living organisms or cause significant impact to the environment or community.*

1. Treat before disposal or contact the RMMC for biohazardous waste pickup.

2. Treat by autoclave or soaking in disinfectant for the disinfectant's contact time as stated on the label.

3. Autoclaved and treated waste bags can go into the trash, but must be placed into a standard trash bag first so that no biohazard symbols can be seen. Please tie the bags securely with a knot.

4. For RMMC waste pickup, Use the right containers:

- a. **Contaminated Sharps** (needles, syringes, razor blades) must go in hard containers. Bags are NOT acceptable because sharps can penetrate and injure/infect employees! To request a container, the responsible faculty member MUST send biohazardous waste pickup request with the following information:
 - Organization name or campus department
 - Responsible faculty member
 - Person making request
 - Contact information (UW phone number, preferably NOT the student's cell phone)
 - Delivery location (Someone must be available to sign for these materials upon delivery)
 - Number of containers or bags
 - Date when used materials are expected to be ready for disposal (date of Health Fair)
- b. All other **biohazard waste** (blood-soaked paper, bandages, gauze, rags, etc.) Should be placed in biohazard red bags and tied tightly with a knot at the top.
- c. **Don't over-fill waste containers:** Bags and other containers should not be filled to the point that they rupture or are difficult to tie. When a container is full, a new one should be started.
- d. **Label all containers** with the orange biohazard symbol and the word "Biohazard"
- e. **Request a waste pickup:** if you do not have a procedure for sterilizing your own biohazardous waste, request a pickup on-line at <http://www.uwyo.edu/serverreports/HazPickUp.aspx> or call the RMMC at 766-2637.