

BSSF Medical Waste Disposal Guidelines

What is Regulated Medical Waste?

Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) is material that may be contaminated with blood, bodily fluids, or other infectious materials. RMW may also be referred to as "biohazardous" or "infectious waste". RMW must be properly handled and disposed of in order to minimize the risk of transmitting infection or endangering human health.

Examples:

- Cultures and stock of microorganisms and biologicals
- Human blood and body fluids, and items contaminated with human blood or body fluids
- Tissues and other anatomical wastes
- Sharps (such as needles, syringes with attached needles, suture needles, and scalpels), including sharps generated through veterinary practice
- Animal carcasses and related wastes when animals are intentionally infected
- Mixtures and residues of regulated medical waste (such as from cleanups of RMW spills)
- Solid waste suspected by the health care professional in charge of being capable of producing infectious disease in humans.

- VA DEQ / ODU EHS -

Types of waste accepted for sterilization

- Bagged Waste
- Glass and Pipettes
- Liquid Waste
- Sharps Waste

Anatomical Material is sent to a separate facility off-campus

Waste Information

Bagged Waste

Contents

- No glass
- No serological pipettes.
- No paper towels unless they were contaminated with a biohazard (used to clean up a biohazard spill or otherwise)
- Cannot be more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full or more than 15 pounds

The generator of the Regulated Medical Waste assumes all responsibility for assuring the autoclave operator, B.S.S.F and personnel that absolutely no hazardous waste, i.e., chemicals, radioactive waste, animal carcasses or Human anatomical material, is contained in the red Biohazard bags submitted for sterilization treatment.

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Approved Bag

- **Red polypropylene** bag that is at least 2 mil thick (two bags are required for double-bagging)
- **No polyethylene.** It cannot handle the cycle we run the medical waste on. There will be issues and it is dangerous.
- Must have the Biohazard label, at least 2" in size.
- Must have the words "Potentially Infectious Material" or "Biohazardous"
- Must have the words "Autoclave Bag"



Example:

- [Fisherbrand No. 01-828D](#)

The waste must be double bagged and closed with closures, twist ties or rubber bands. **Do not** twist or tie the bag in a knot. Air must be able to pass through the opening of the bag.

Write the generator's/PIs name, building and room number, and the contaminants/agents on the bag with a permanent marker.

Sterilizing Tray (labs are responsible for purchasing)

- Thermo Scientific Nalgene Large Polypropylene Sterilizing Pans (Fisher Scientific, Cat. #13-359-20B)
- ---If there is another tray that could be an option, have it approved through BSSF prior to ordering.

Pipettes and Glass

Serological pipettes

- Serological pipettes must be placed in an **approved sterilization tray**, covered in disinfecting liquid, no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full, and covered with foil prior to transporting.
- Always put a piece of autoclave indicator tape on the sterilization tray
- We cannot accept serological pipettes in bags for any reason. Make sure they are not included in bagged waste, or the entire bagged waste will be rejected.
- It will be the responsibility of the individual labs to retrieve their trays once they have been sterilized and to dispose of the waste.

Glass Slides

- **Contaminated** slides shall be placed in an approved sharps container.
- **Non-contaminated** slides can be placed in cardboard box (bag lined) marked "Broken Glass". The box is to be disposed with normal trash or put into a dumpster.

Broken Glass

- **Contaminated** glass should be placed in a sharps container.
- **Non-contaminated** glass can be placed in cardboard box (bag lined) marked "Broken Glass". The box is to be disposed with normal trash or put into a dumpster.

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Liquid Waste

- Container with the opening covered with foil or the cap loosely attached
- Label the container with the agents contained in the waste
- The container holding the waste must be placed into an approved sterilization tray prior to submitting the liquid for autoclaving.
- Always put a piece of autoclave indicator tape on the sterilization tray

Sharps Waste

- Must be in an approved sharps container.
- Must have a lid that can be securely sealed to keep contents from falling out
- Must be clearly marked with the biohazard symbol on the container
- Cannot be larger than 14 quarts
- Must have the generator's name, room number and building on the container



If the sharps container is broken or missing lid(s), place the entire container into a larger container for sterilization. Do not attempt to tape broken lids or the entire top of container. Empty defective containers should be placed in trash (after removing all labels)

Once sterilized, EHS will be contacted, and the sharps will be sent off campus to a contracted vendor.

Sterilization Tray information

We recommend Thermo Scientific Nalgene Large Polypropylene Sterilizing Pans (Fisher Scientific, Cat. #13-359-20B)

If there is another tray that could be an option, have it approved through BSSF prior to ordering.

After the waste has been sterilized and disposed of, make sure to retrieve the sterilization tray. Typically, the tray will be ready for retrieval on Thursday.

If the sterilization tray does not have any identifying information on it, it will remain in the autoclave room for future use. Please make sure the PI's name and room number is visible on the tray.



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Waste Receiving Schedule

BSSF Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
-8am to 2pm -Any waste other than medical waste accepted (Pipettes/Liquid)	-8am to 2pm -Any waste other than medical waste accepted (Pipettes/Liquid)	-8am to 10am -Only medical waste is accepted unless you have prior approval from BSSF. -No other waste accepted	-8am to 2pm -Any waste other than medical waste accepted (Pipettes/Liquid)	-8am to 2pm -Any waste other than medical waste accepted (Pipettes/Liquid)

How to transport waste

Always transport waste on a cart or in a leakproof bin with a lid

Never hand carry Regulated Medical Waste outside of the labs without leakproof containment

Waste must be in the approved sterilization containers before transportation

