



RESEARCHER'S RULES FOR LABORATORY WASTE DISPOSAL



Type: **Sharps**
Contents: Needles, scalpel blades, biohazard contaminated pipets, pipet tips, and broken glass
Collected By: **Med Center*: Housekeeping**
Other areas: Environmental Management (323-6280)
Disposal: Sharps waste must always be enclosed in a sealed hard sided container marked with the universal biohazard symbol. Containers should be no more than 3/4 full and sealed closed.



Type: **Medical (Pathological) Waste**
Contents: Large amounts (>500 ml) of human blood, unfixed human tissues and organs
Collected By: *Contact Department of Biological Safety (257-1049) for collection procedure specific to your location.*
Disposal: At the University of Kentucky, medical waste is not autoclaved and instead is incinerated by a licensed vendor, therefore laboratory disposal of this waste requires special designation by the use of a red bag. Red bags should **never** be used for regular or autoclaved waste. If your research laboratory is producing legitimate red bag waste, please contact our department to be put on the authorized users list, thereby ensuring you have proper disposal containers and receive pick up service. If your research laboratory is producing legitimate red bag waste, please contact our department to be put on the authorized users list, thereby ensuring you have proper disposal containers and receive pick up service.



Type: **Biohazard Waste**
Contents: Infectious microorganisms or OPIM, recombinant DNA, or other biohazardous materials
Collected By: **ALL AREAS: Housekeeping**
Disposal: All biohazardous trash must be placed inside an orange or clear autoclavable bag with the universal biohazard symbol, autoclaved and then placed within a regular trash bag for pick up by housekeeping. Unprepared or unautoclaved waste should never be left in hallways or unattended in the autoclave rooms. Bags that are leaking, have tears or are punctured with pipets or other sharp items should not be autoclaved or left for removal. **Waste should be prepared properly and transported to/from the autoclave rooms using a hard sided tray or other container.**



Type: **Pipets and Pipet Tips**
Contents: Uncontaminated/decontaminated serological pipets and pipet tips
Collected By: **ALL AREAS: Housekeeping**
Disposal: Pipets and pipet tips which have not been used in conjunction with biohazardous materials or which have been chemically decontaminated (ex: bleach) should be disposed of in a plastic lined box in order to prevent puncturing of trash bags.

- Alternatively, biohazard contaminated pipets and pipet tips may be collected in a plastic lined box, sealed shut and then **enclosed in an autoclave bag** for regular autoclave processing.
- A third option for **tips** is to use a benchtop collection system. If the tips **are** contaminated with biohazardous materials, when the bag is full it should be taped or otherwise secured shut and disposed of in an autoclave bag for autoclave processing.

Loose pipets or tips in bagged trash (shown on right) are unacceptable. When full and ready for disposal, any boxes should be closed and taped shut.



TIPS ONLY



Do not play target practice with your tips! Tips should not be scattered upon the laboratory floor for housekeeping to discern whether they are contaminated and how to dispose of them properly.



Type: **Glass (uncontaminated)**
Contents: Broken glassware
Collected By: **ALL AREAS: Housekeeping**
Disposal: Broken glassware that was not used in conjunction with biohazards should be disposed of in a sturdy cardboard box. When full, box should be closed and taped shut. **If glass is contaminated with biohazardous material, it must be disposed of as Sharps.**



Glass slides should not be scattered on the floors and left for housekeeping to discern whether they are contaminated and how to dispose of them properly.

OTHER REGULATED WASTES



Type: **Chemical Waste**
Contents: Chemical waste from experiments.
Collected By: **ALL AREAS: Environmental Management (323-6280)**
Disposal: Chemical waste is removed by Environmental Management only. For correct disposal of empty chemical containers, call Environmental Management.



Type: **Chemotherapeutic Waste**
Contents: Toxic compounds
Collected By: **ALL AREAS: Environmental Management (323-6280)**
Disposal: Chemotherapeutic waste should be discarded in designated black containers (shown on right) and are procured through and disposed of by Environmental Management.



Type: **Radioactive Waste**
Contents: Materials containing or contaminated by radionuclides. All radioactive materials are marked with the universal radiation symbol (shown at right).
Collected By: **ALL AREAS: Radiation Safety (323-6777)**
Disposal: Anything marked with the universal radiation symbol pictured on the right is removed by the Department of Radiation Safety only.



*Med Center consists of all biomedical buildings on the hospital side of Rose street that are connected by underground passages. This includes Medical Sciences, HSRB, Roach, Combs, Whitney-Hendrickson, and Gill Heart buildings.