

IUPUI Biological Waste Procedures

1. Non-sharps Biohazard Waste

- a. All untreated biohazard waste needs to be labeled with a biohazard symbol to alert lab staff and others that the waste is biohazardous and needs to be decontaminated before final disposal.
- b. Biohazard waste needs to be placed into polypropylene bags that are transparent, rated for autoclave use, and marked with a biohazard label.
 - i. Commonly called biohazard or autoclave bags, these bags are able to withstand autoclaving and are tear resistant, but can be punctured or burst during autoclaving. Therefore, place bags in a rigid container such as a polypropylene or stainless steel pan during autoclaving. Bags are available in a variety of sizes, and some are printed with an indicator that changes color when processed.
 - ii. Polypropylene bags are impermeable to steam, and for this reason should not be twisted and taped shut, but gathered loosely at the top and secured with a large rubber band or autoclave tape. This will create an opening through which steam can penetrate.
- c. Appropriate bags are available from the R3 Stockroom or from Fisher Scientific (01-827A, 01-827B, 01-827D, or 14-828-150). Note: alternative products from other vendors must be approved by EHS prior to use. ****Do not use red or orange bags. Red or orange biohazard bags can no longer be placed in building dumpsters.****
- d. Before autoclaving:
 - i. Loosely close the bag in a manner that will prevent waste materials from being released and still allow air exchange between the interior of the bag and the ambient environment. This involves using autoclave tape as the means to close the bag.
 - ii. Place two pieces of autoclave tape over the biohazard sticker on the bag in the form of an "X".
- e. Before final disposal:
 - i. Ensure the autoclave tape visibly indicates proper autoclaving occurred.
 - ii. Ensure that all biohazard markings on the waste clearly indicate that the waste has been treated via autoclave tape tagging. If autoclave tape was not placed over the biohazard sticker clearly

deface the label with black marker or remove the biohazard sticker from the bag.

- iii. Place the autoclaved bag into the non-hazardous waste stream in the building according to building requirements. If there is not an autoclave with sufficient capacity for the waste accessible to you by internal building routes, contact EHS.

2. Biohazardous Sharps Containers

- a. Appropriate sharps containers are available from the R3 Stockroom or from Fisher Scientific (14-827-54A, NC0926665, 14-830-66C, or 22-037-963). Note: alternative products from other vendors must be approved by EHS prior to use.
- b. Place sharps in a puncture-proof container in the form of a commercially available clear biohazard sharps container. Needles, scalpels, razor blades, and biologically contaminated glass are required to go into biohazard sharps containers. Serological Pipettes and plastic pipette tips can be placed in biohazard sharps containers, lined and labeled cardboard boxes or other plastic containers that can withstand autoclaving.
- c. Seal the container or box and attach a strip of autoclave tape over the top of the sharps container.
- d. All sharps containers are to be disposed of when no more than 2/3 full and must have a lid that is closed and secured prior to disposal. ****Do not use red sharps containers. Red sharps containers cannot be placed in building dumpsters.****

3. Animal Tissues and Carcasses

- a. Disposal of animal carcasses/tissues is coordinated through the Animal Care Facility for your respective campus.
 - i. Place animal carcasses/tissues into non-transparent bag. Note: This may continue to be the small red biohazard bag as these are sent off-site for incineration.
 - a) Double-bag when carcass contains zoonotic agent (transmissible from animals to humans).
 - ii. Place bag in freezer at Animal Care Facility or other designated location for your respective campus.
- b. Disposal of animal carcasses/tissues that are contaminated with radioactive materials requires special handling. Disposal instructions are available by contacting Radiation Safety.