

# Biohazardous Waste Packaging Guide:

Biohazardous and medical waste is defined as human tissues, wastes from contact with patients, waste contaminated with infectious agents, live vaccines, all sharps (syringes, needles, scalpel blades, etc.), and animal carcasses/tissues. These wastes must be disposed of by incineration. We currently have a contract with Stericycle to pick-up and dispose of our biohazardous and medical waste.

## Packaging

1. Line the corrugated box with two red bags provided by Stericycle
2. Freeze animal carcasses prior to packaging and pick-up by EH&S
3. All non-sharp waste may be placed directly into the red bag, or individually bagged to help eliminate odor.
4. Sharps must be in puncture resistant containers prior to going into red bags.
5. The red bag liners must be sealed or tied to prevent leakage. Securely seal the top of the boxes with tape.
6. The boxes MUST NOT EXCEED 40 POUNDS. The boxes will be **rejected if they are overweight, leaking, bulging or damaged.**
7. Do not place any chemical hazardous wastes, radioactive materials, flammable liquids, DEA-regulated waste, pharmaceutical waste or lead-foil in the bio-boxes.

## Labeling

1. Before you close the flaps of the box, label the red bag with the name of the facility and building.
2. Label the outside of the corrugated bio-boxes with:
  - a. Stericycle bar code label
  - b. "PATH WASTE" label if box contains carcasses or sharps
  - c. Label with the name and facility that generated the waste and write the date packed on this label

## Pick-Ups and Packaging Material Requests

1. You may place a pick-up request and request packaging supplies at any time on the EH&S website at: <http://www.ehs.umass.edu/> and click on "Hazardous Waste Pick-Up Request" at this link: <http://www.umass.cems.sr.unh.edu/CEMS/RequestRemoval>
2. Pick-ups and packaging supply requests will be filled on Thursday afternoons by EH&S and they will coordinate pick-ups of all biohazardous packages, (especially frozen carcasses) on Thursday mornings.
3. Stericycle provides bio-boxes, red biohazard bags and labeling materials. Please make a note in "Comments" on the "Hazardous Waste Request" when your supplies are getting low. There is no charge for these supplies as used for biohazardous waste.
4. All waste should be left in a secure location until removed by EH&S. Please denote pick-up location when submitting pick-up request.

Special waste requests will be handled on a case by case basis. If you have any questions concerning disposal of biological wastes or other wastes please contact Judy LaDuc, Biosafety Officer at Environmental Health and Safety at 545-7293 or [jladuc@ehs.umass.edu](mailto:jladuc@ehs.umass.edu).

## Biohazardous Waste

## Packaging Guidelines

### Definition:

Human tissues and medical waste is defined as human tissues, wastes from contact with patients, waste contaminated with infectious agents, live vaccines, all sharps (syringes, needles, scalpel blades, etc.), and animal carcasses/tissues.

### Examples:

- Human tissues, blood, blood products, other bodily fluids
- Wastes from contact with patients/subjects
- Laboratory cultures/ waste contaminated with infectious agents
- Live vaccines
- Syringes, hypodermic needles, scalpel blades and other sharps
- Animal carcasses and tissues
- Contaminated bedding
- Other contaminated items
- DEA and other controlled substances
- Preparations from genetically altered living organisms

### If Discarding:

#### Autoclavable or chemically treatable wastes



### Then:

1. Disinfect using steam sterilization or an appropriate chemical disinfectant that will kill the target organism(s).
2. Record each autoclave run on the log sheets provided. This is mandated by MA state code: 105 CMR 480.000
3. Test autoclave monthly using biological test spores to verify steam penetration

#### Human blood, body fluids, and tissues, wastes from contact with patients, laboratory cultures and biotechnology products



3. Label the primary red bag and the sharps containers with a label with the name of the facility and building.
4. The boxes **MUST NOT EXCEED 40 POUNDS**. The boxes will be **rejected if they are overweight, leaking, bulging or damaged**.
5. Label the outside of the corrugated bio-boxes with:
  - Stericycle bar code label
  - "Incinerate Only" label if box contains carcasses or sharps
  - Label with the name and facility that generated the waste and write the date packed on this label
4. Refrigerate not more than three days or freeze

#### Animal carcasses/tissues and contaminated bedding



1. Place in leak-proof bag, seal well. No other items may be placed in bag.
2. See #1-4 above
3. Animal carcasses must be completely frozen (at least 48 hours) before pick-up



For additional information:

**Biological Safety Services**  
117 Draper Hall  
40 Campus Center Way  
Amherst, MA 01003-9244  
Tel: 413-545-2682

### Sharps



1. Place Syringes, hypodermic needles, scalpel blades and other sharps in a red, leak-proof, puncture resistant container labeled with the "Biohazard" symbol.
2. Close and secure the opening with tape if necessary
3. Package same as with blood instructions above.

### Other biohazardous materials

Package in accordance with appropriate category listed above or call EH&S for information.

## Disposal Information

### For:

Autoclavable and chemically disinfected wastes

### Then:

1. Treat using accepted procedures and autoclave using manufacturer's instructions
2. After treatment, handle as general waste (see "General Waste") by placing in a black trash bag and disposing of in regular trash (dumpster).

### Pick-Ups and Packaging Material Requests

5. You may place a pick-up request and request packaging supplies at any time on the EH&S website at: <http://www.ehs.umass.edu/> and click on "Hazardous Waste Pick-Up Request" at this link: <http://www.umass.cems.sr.unh.edu/CEMS/RequestRemoval>
6. Pick-ups and packaging supply requests will be filled on Thursday afternoons by EH&S and they will coordinate pick-ups of all biohazardous packages, (especially frozen carcasses) on Thursday mornings.
7. Stericycle provides bio-boxes, red biohazard bags and labeling materials. Please make a note in "Comments" on the "Hazardous Waste Request" when your supplies are getting low. EH&S also maintains some supplies in the Fisher Stockroom of LGRT. There is no charge for these supplies as used for biohazardous waste.
8. All waste should be left in a secure location until removed by EH&S. Please denote pick-up location when submitting pick-up request.