



Environmental Health and Safety		
Title: Biohazardous Waste Plan		
Effective Date: 12/2006	Revision: 4/2019	Number of pages: 3

PURPOSE

To provide general information for the safe handling, storage, disposal, and collection of biohazardous wastes. Occupational safety and environmental health regulations, as well as common sense, require compliance to these regulations. Specific information is available in the SUNY College of Optometry *Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan*. Call the Environmental Health and Safety Office at extension 5581. General instructions and guidelines are provided below.

IDENTIFICATION

Red Bags: Contain waste which includes, but is not limited to, specimen cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures or stocks of infectious agents from research laboratories; surgical or pathological specimens (including human and animal parts and tissues); instruments, utensils, and other disposable materials which are likely to transmit etiological agents.

Sharp Containers: Contain waste which include, but is not limited to, contaminated needles, syringes, razor blades, sharp glass, or other objects having acute rigid corners or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Red Bags: Plastic bags shall be red in color and conspicuously labeled with the international biohazard symbol and the word “biohazard.” “Primary” container is to be either a plastic lined reusable container with a lid or a designated red bag.

Biohazardous waste for “red bag” containment is to be segregated and stored in two waste categories:

1. Those wastes which contain animal carcasses, parts, or tissues; or human parts or tissues. Store this waste in a freezer. **DO NOT MIX THIS CATEGORY OF WASTE WITH GLASS OR METAL ITEMS.**

2. All other biohazardous waste, to include plastic, paper, non-sharp glass, and metal. Store this waste in designated containers.

Sharp Containers: Plastic sharps containers shall be red in color and conspicuously labeled with the international biohazard symbol and the word "biohazard." Sharps containers are to be leakproof, rigid, puncture resistant, and sealed when ready for disposal. A tight lid is required to prevent loss of contents and fluids.

Biohazardous waste is to be stored in the following manner:

1. *Segregation:* Segregate biohazardous waste from other types of hazardous waste such as chemical and radioactive materials.
2. *Identification:* All bags and sharps containers are required to be labeled with the Generator address and phone number. Self-adhesive Generator labels are provided; place one label per bag, preferable next to a biohazard symbol. All bags and sharps containers must have the Generator label affixed as items are used.
3. *Double-bag:* When the primary containers (red bags and sharps containers) are ready for disposal, they are required to be DOUBLE-BAGGED. Secure the primary container first, then wrap in a second red bag. Remove as much air as possible, twist and tape the area directly above the waste, fold over the excess and tape it again. This will prevent leakage or expulsion of the waste. Also, affix another self-adhesive generator label.
4. *Storage:* When the above are completed, the spent waste shall be stored in the designated area in the sub-basement. (To be performed by the Environmental Health and Safety Officer.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Strict regulations governing the disposal of biohazardous wastes have been promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Infractions of these regulations can lead to civil or criminal prosecution of the University or individuals. It is imperative, therefore, that these wastes are handled and disposed in a controlled manner. For disposal, use the designated Accumulation Site in the sub-basement. Call the Environmental Health and Safety Office at ext 5581 for collection. EH&S will ensure the wastes are disposed in an approved manner and documentation of proper disposal is maintained.

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSAL OF BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE

Type of Waste	Red Bag Containers	Sharps Containers	Regular Trash
Blood, blood elements, vials of blood, specimens for microbiological culture, used culture plates, and used culture tubes.	x		
Fluid-filled container from patients.	x		
Surgical pathological specimens.	x		
Needle/syringe units, needles, scalpels, suture needles, etc.		x	
Glass slides and pipettes.		x	
Empty specimen containers.			x
Dressings, bandages, cotton balls, cotton swabs, etc. containing non-fluid blood.			x
Used gloves, aprons, masks, shoe and head covers.			x
Paper towels for hand washing, computer paper, packaging materials, food waste.			x
Materials to clean up non-hazardous spills.			x

INQUIRIES/REQUESTS:

Environmental Health and Safety
 Room 3M05
 Office: (212) 938-5581
 Fax: (212) 938-5585

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

SanDiego State University Biohazardous Waste Guidelines

29 CFR 1910.1030 *OSHA Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens*

6 NYCRR Part 360 *Solid Waste Management Facilities*