

# Laboratory Waste Guidelines

## Biohazardous



### Description

Infectious microorganisms, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid materials, parasites, prions, live vaccines, other potentially infectious or human-sourced material

All biohazardous waste shall be placed inside an **orange or clear** autoclavable bag with the **universal biohazard symbol**.



Bagged waste shall then be autoclaved and subsequently placed within an opaque, regular trash bag for pick up by housekeeping staff.

Unautoclaved biohazardous waste shall not be left unsecured and unattended. Waste shall be transported to the autoclave room using a hard-sided tray, bin, or other container.

## Hazardous Chemical



### Description

Expired chemicals or chemical waste from experiments

**Environmental Quality Management (EQM)** collects this waste from all areas.

Chemical waste collection containers, appropriate for the collected material must be labeled with a **Hazardous Waste Label, Hazard Warning Information, and contents** when the material is introduced into the container. Chemical waste containers shall be placed in a designated area within the laboratory and until closed and ready for pickup.

EQM will not collect items that are not tagged with a completed E-trax waste card. **Do not date containers.**

Submit a collection ticket via E-trax or Contact EQM for guidance.



## Glass



### Description

Broken glassware

Broken glassware that has not been used in conjunction with biohazards should be disposed of in a plastic-lined, sturdy cardboard box. Once full, the box shall be taped securely shut, labeled with the word "TRASH", and placed with the regular trash for removal by housekeeping staff.

**Please note:** Housekeeping will not remove boxes that are leaking, insufficiently taped/sealed shut, or over 50 pounds.

If broken glass is contaminated with **biohazardous material**, it must be disposed of as biohazardous sharps waste. Alternatively, this material may be disposed of in the same manner as biohazard contaminated pipettes.

## Pathological (Medical)



### Description

Recognizable human organs, large amounts of unfixed human tissues, and large volumes (>500 ml) of human blood or blood soaked materials.

At the University of Kentucky, this type of waste is collected by licensed vendor. Therefore laboratory disposal of this waste requires special designation by the use of a **red bag and specific containers**.

Red bags are **never** to be used for regular or autoclaved waste. **Contact EQM** for the collection procedure specific to your location.



## Pharmaceutical



### Description

Hazardous drug waste and equivalent chemical compounds

Pharmaceutical waste meets hazardous waste criteria or is identified as having equivalent characteristics, such as cytotoxic compounds. These shall be discarded in **designated black containers**.

**Contact EQM** for the collection procedure specific to your location.



## Serological Pipettes and Pipette Tips



### Description

Used serological pipettes and pipette tips

Pipettes and pipette tips which have **not** been used in conjunction with biohazardous materials or which have been chemically decontaminated (ex: 10% household bleach) shall be disposed of in a **plastic-lined** box. Once full, the box shall be taped securely shut, labeled with the word "TRASH", and placed with the regular trash for removal by housekeeping staff. **Please note:** Housekeeping will not remove boxes that are leaking, insufficiently taped/sealed shut, or over 50 pounds.

Alternatively, pipettes and pipette tips **contaminated** with biohazardous materials may be collected in a **plastic-lined box, sealed shut, and enclosed in an autoclave bag for autoclave processing as biohazardous waste**.

**Loose pipets or tips in bagged trash are prohibited.**

## Radiological



### Description

Materials containing or contaminated by radionuclides

All radioactive materials are marked with the **universal radiation symbol**:



**Contact Radiation Safety** for collection of this waste.



## Sharps



### Description

Needles, scalpel blades, biohazard contaminated pipettes, pipette tips, and broken glass

Used needles, syringes, lancets, razor blades, and other sharp objects which have **not** been used in conjunction with biohazards or hazardous chemicals shall be placed in a hard plastic or metal container with a screw-on lid. When full, reinforce lid with heavy-duty tape, label the container with the words "Not recyclable trash" and place with regular trash for collection by housekeeping.

Sharps contaminated with human blood or other potentially infectious material must be placed in a sealed, hard plastic **medical sharps container** that is marked with the **universal biohazard symbol or is the color red**. Medical sharps containers should be no more than 2/3 full and closed shut for pickup by housekeeping (for Med Ctr area\*) or EQM.

\*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.



Questions or concerns may be addressed to:

labsafety@uky.edu