

Quick Guide to Biological Waste Management

Sharps Waste: needles, scalpel blades, hypodermic needles, syringes (with or without attached needles) and needles with attached tubing regardless of contact with infectious agents. Other sharps: pasteur pipettes disposable pipettes, razor blades, blood vials, test tubes, pipette tips, broken plastic culture dishes, glass culture dishes and other types of broken and unbroken glass waste (including microscope slides and cover slips) that may have been in contact with infectious material. Items that can puncture or tear autoclave bags.

Sharps should be treated when required by the UConn Biological Waste Guide and placed in sharps containers provided by EH&S. An Address Label should be placed on each sharps container and the container should be placed in a box-bag unit.

Contact EH&S for disposal

Solid Waste: Stericycle boxes are for **SOLID materials only, no liquids.** Waste may include pipettes, microtiter plates, disposable loops, eppendorfs, toothpicks, infectious animal waste, infectious animal bedding, infectious animal carcasses, etc. No hazardous chemical or licensed radioactive wastes. Solids wastes should be collected and treated as required by individual lab protocols before being placed into a box-bag unit. Seal the bag of the box-bag unit and label with an address label. Mark the top of the box-bag unit with the room number.

Steam sterilization units used to treat regulated medical waste must perform and log specific validation procedures to ensure the effectiveness of the sterilization units every 40 hours of use. Contact EH&S for further information on autoclave validation procedures.

Contact EH&S for disposal

Liquid Waste: The sanitary sewer system at the Storrs campus is designed for the disposal of certain liquid wastes. Use of the sanitary sewer reduces the chance for leaks or spills during transport and reduces disposal costs. Biological liquid waste can be poured down the drain (sanitary sewer), under running water **after it has been decontaminated** by autoclave or chemical means. Human or animal blood and body fluids do not need to be disinfected before being poured down the drain. The sink should be rinsed well and disinfected if necessary, after the disposal procedure.

The Stericycle box-bag units are **NOT** designed to contain liquids. **DO NOT** place liquids into the box-bag units even if they are in sealed containers.

Animal Research Waste: Animal carcasses, body parts and bedding of animals that were **intentionally** exposed to infectious agents during research or testing must be managed as solid biomedical waste using Stericycle box-bag units.

When preparing these boxes for disposal please remember there is a strict limit of 40 pounds per box-bag unit.

Animal carcasses and body parts not intentionally exposed to infectious agents during research or testing are disposed of by Inserve and are not picked up by EH&S. Contact EH&S to schedule a pickup from Inserve.

Any animal tissues that have been chemically preserved in alcohol or formaldehyde should be containerized and managed as chemical waste.

Contact EH&S for disposal

