

Department of Biological Sciences Regulated Medical Waste Guidelines

What is Regulated Medical Waste?

Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) is material that may be contaminated with infectious agents and includes but is not limited to blood, bodily fluids, and cell culture materials. RMW may also be referred to as "biohazardous" or "infectious waste". RMW must be properly handled and disposed of in order to minimize the risk of transmitting infectious agents or endangering human health.

Examples:

- Cultures and stock of microorganisms and biologicals
- Human blood and body fluids, and items contaminated with human blood or body fluids
- Tissues and other anatomical wastes
- Sharps (needles, syringes with attached needles, suture needles, and scalpels)
- Animal carcasses and related wastes when animals are intentionally infected
- Mixtures and residues of regulated medical waste (from cleanups of RMW spills)
- Solid waste suspected to be capable of producing infectious disease in humans by a health care professional

-In accordance with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality & Old Dominion University's Office of Environmental Health & Safety

Types of waste accepted for sterilization

- Bagged Waste
- Glassware
- Pipettes
- Liquid Waste
- Sharps Waste

Waste Information

Red Bagged Waste

Contents

- Disposable contaminated waste
- Serological pipettes must be in a dedicated bag and not mixed with other disposable waste
- No glass
- No paper towels unless they were contaminated with a biohazard
- Cannot be more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full or more than 15 pounds

Unauthorized Items/Material:

The generator of the Regulated Medical Waste assumes responsibility for assuring the autoclave operator (B.S.S.F. and their personnel) that no hazardous chemicals (including Bleach), radioactive waste, animal carcasses or human anatomical material, is contained in the red biohazard bags submitted for treatment.

Department of Biological Sciences Regulated Medical Waste Guidelines

Approved Bags

- **Red polypropylene** bag that is at least 2 mil thick
 - **No polyethylene.** *It cannot withstand the autoclaving cycle used for treating medical waste*
- Must have the Biohazard label, at least 2" in size.
- Must have the words "Potentially Infectious Material" or "Biohazardous"
- Must have the words "Autoclave Bag"



Example:

- [Fisherbrand No. 01-828D](#)

The waste must be double bagged and closed with closures, such as a rubber band or twist ties. **Do not** close the bag too tightly or tie the bag in a knot as air must be able to pass through the opening.

Write the PI's name along with building and room number on the bag with a permanent marker. The waste must be transported to B.S.S.F. on a sterilization tray.

Sterilization Tray (labs are responsible for purchasing)

- Recommended: Thermo Scientific Nalgene Large Polypropylene Sterilizing Pans (Fisher Scientific, Cat. #13-359-20B)
- Other tray options are suitable provided it can handle the autoclaving cycle
- Please be sure the PI's name and room number are visible on the tray.
- When dropping off any waste in a sterilization tray, you may be given a tray labelled "BSSF" as a substitute so you can retrieve your tray upon your following drop-off.

Pipettes and Glass

Plastic Serological Pipettes

- Contaminated serological pipettes shall be placed in **approved Red biohazard bags, double bagged, and properly closed**. To avoid the development of punctured holes, **be sure the pipettes are not mixed with any other solid waste and allow the bags to form a log-like shape**.
- Label the PI's name along with building and room number on the bag. The bags must be transported to B.S.S.F. in a sterilizing tray.

Broken Glass and Glass Slides

- Contaminated glass and slides shall be placed in an approved sharps container.

Liquid Waste in Containers

- Containers should be closed loosely with an appropriate lid or cap.
 - Alternatively, the container may be covered with aluminum foil.
- The container holding the waste must be transported in an autoclave tray.
- Label the container(s) with the PI's name along with the building and room number.
 - **For groups outside of MGB:** *containers of liquid waste can be treated by submerging them entirely in 10% bleach for the required disinfecting time (minimum 20 minutes). After allowing the required disinfecting time, the liquid may be drained down the sink with copious amounts of water.*

Department of Biological Sciences Regulated Medical Waste Guidelines

Sharps Waste

- Must be in an approved sharps container
- Must have a lid that can be securely sealed to prevent contents from falling out
- Must be clearly marked with the biohazard symbol on the container
- **Cannot exceed 14 quarts**
- Label the containers with the PI's name along with the building and room number.



Sharps waste will be sent off campus to a contracted vendor. If a sharps container is broken or missing lid(s), place the entire container into a larger container. **Never attempt to tape any sharps container with duct tape.** Empty defective containers should be placed in regular trash once all labels are removed.

Waste Receiving Schedule

Regulated medical waste is accepted from 8 AM until noon on Wednesday through Friday by appointment only. Drop-offs on Monday and Tuesday may be acceptable at the discretion of B.S.S.F. personnel but is not guaranteed.

It is preferred that appointments are scheduled at least 24 hours ahead of the drop-off using the Biological Sciences Support Facility Autoclave Scheduler. The form may be accessed through the QR code below or through our website at www.odu.edu/biological-sciences/bssf.

All regulated medical waste should always be treated (e.g., brought to B.S.S.F.) within 7 days of generation as they should not be stored in a laboratory for a long period of time.



Access the Autoclave Scheduler here!

How to transport waste

- Always transport waste on a cart or in a leakproof bin with a lid. Regulated medical waste should never be transported without leakproof containment

