

**Definition of infectious waste includes but is not limited to:**

Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biological materials including cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research laboratories; discarded live and attenuated vaccines and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures.

Pathological wastes which includes body tissues and their containers.

Human or animal blood and blood products including liquid waste, human and animal blood, products of blood, items saturated or dripping with human or animal blood; items that were saturated and dripping that are now caked with dried human or animal blood; serum, plasma, and other blood components and their containers which were used or intended for use either in patient care, testing, laboratory analysis, or research. Intravenous bags are also included in this category.

Used and unused sharps that have been used in animal or human patient care, treatment or medical research, including hypodermic needles, syringes (with or without the attached needle), Pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, blood vials, needles with attached tubing, and culture dishes (regardless of presence of infectious agents). Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware that were in contact with infectious agents such as used slides and cover slips.

Contaminated animal carcasses including whole contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research or testing of pharmaceuticals.

Other waste that has been intermingled with infectious waste including any material (i.e., paper products, plastic products, and disposables) that has at any time been in contact with or believed to have been in contact with any infectious agent.

**Definition of Non-infectious Biological Waste includes but is not limited to:**

Used labware (tissue culture dishes and flasks, petri dishes, centrifuge tubes, test tubes, pipettes, vials, etc) from clinical or research labs that is NOT contaminated with infectious agents.

Gloves used in clinical or research labs that are NOT contaminated with any infectious agent.

Disposable personal protective equipment used in clinical or research labs that is NOT contaminated with any infectious agents.

**PROCEDURES:**

Biological waste containers and bags for material that is infectious or potentially infectious to humans must be labeled with the biohazard symbol.

All infectious waste (except sharps, sharps containers, and animal carcasses) shall be rendered innocuous through autoclaving or treatment with bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite solution) prior to disposal. Biohazardous waste must be transported to the autoclave in a closed, leak-proof bag or container; bags must be contained in a leak-proof tray.

Non-infectious biological waste does not require inactivation prior to disposal.

For disposal, biological waste items (inactivated biological waste, non-infectious biological waste) should be placed in the red bag-lined biowaste containers provided by the Office of Biological Safety.

Sharps (used and unused) must be placed in red, hard plastic sharps containers and closed when it is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. Sharps containers must be autoclaved if the sharps are contaminated before disposal. Sharps containers are placed into the red bag-lined biowaste containers provided by the Office of Biological Safety.

Contact Office of Biological Safety at (615) 327-6642 for pickup.

Animal carcasses and other animal material that may contain infectious animal or human pathogens require containment (bags, sealed containers labeled with the biohazard symbol) before transporting to the Animal Care Facility. No animal carcasses or tissue pieces shall be disposed of as regular trash or through the biological waste stream.

It shall be the individual department's responsibility to provide protective garments as necessary to persons involved in infectious agent research or infectious waste handling. See the College's Personal Protective Equipment Policy for guidance or contact office of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS).

At all times prior to disposal, biological waste must be stored in closed containers in a secure area, protected from adverse environmental conditions and identified with the biohazard label.

EHS contracts with a licensed infectious waste disposer to transport and dispose of infectious waste at licensed incinerators.

#### **TRAINING:**

The Office of Biological Safety shall provide necessary instruction and training in Universal precaution procedures and all other applicable guidelines regarding the safe handling or transportation of infectious waste. Records of instruction including an attendance record shall be maintained by the Office of Biological Safety.

#### **RECORD KEEPING:**

All records, including waste shipments, weights, departments, disposal, instruction, training attendance and any other pertinent or necessary records shall be maintained by the Office of Biological Safety.

#### **VIOLATIONS OF THE GUIDELINES:**

Violations of any of the above guidelines will be handled as any violation of College guidelines by Human Resources in conjunction with the individual's supervisor and the Office of Biological Safety.