

Biohazardous & Medical Waste Disposal Requirements

Biohazardous Waste

includes any laboratory or research waste that is potentially infectious to humans, plants or animals, or would pose a potential threat to the community or the environment (e.g. organisms with significant environmental impact, or transgenic or recombinant organisms).

Medical Waste

includes all sharps and any biohazardous waste from research involving the treatment, diagnosis or immunization of humans or animals. Riverside County's UCR Medical Waste Permit requires anyone generating, treating, or storing medical waste to comply with the following procedures:

1. Label a red biohazard bag with building and room number before filling it.
2. Place the waste in the red biohazard bag (orange bags are illegal in California). Do not place glass pipettes or anything that will puncture the plastic bag. Rigid objects such as transfer pipettes can be decontaminated by exposure to a 10% bleach solution for at least 30 minutes.
3. Place autoclave tape on the bag to ensure the autoclave reached proper decontamination temperature.
4. Waste must be stored in a labeled container with a tight-fitting lid before decontamination and disposal to prevent leaks.
5. When autoclaved, to dispose take the red bag directly to the building dumpster or make special arrangements with building services.
6. All waste must be decontaminated and disposed within 7 days of generation if stored at a temperature above 0°C.
7. All waste must be disposed within 90 days if stored at or below 0 °C.
8. Place all sharps in a red sharps container that is rigid, leak proof, and has the international biohazard symbol.

Additional requirements for medical waste:

1. The door of the medical waste storage area must have a sign indicating the room contains hazardous waste.
2. The doors of the medical waste storage facility must be locked and remain closed to prevent unauthorized access.
3. The autoclave must be spore-tested monthly. For guidance, contact EH&S Biosafety at 951-827-5528.
4. The autoclave must have a chart recorder. All charts must be dated and kept by the department for 3 years.
5. All waste treatment runs must be listed on the autoclave log and the logs must be kept by the department for 3 years.

For more information www.ehs.ucr.edu