



Biohazardous & Medical Waste Disposal Requirements



Medical Waste Defined (Medical Waste Management Act 2016)

- Any biohazardous, pathology, pharmaceutical, or trace chemotherapy waste
- All sharps and any biohazardous waste from research involving the treatment, diagnosis or immunization of humans or animals
- Waste generated in autopsy or necropsy
- Waste generated in research using human or animal pathogens
- Laboratory waste such as human or animal specimen cultures that are infected with pathogens that are also infectious to humans
- Laboratory wastes from the production of bacteria, viruses, spores, discarded live and attenuated vaccines used in human health care or research

The California Medical Waste Management Act 2016 and UCR Medical Waste Permit requires anyone generating, treating, or storing medical waste to comply with the following procedures listed below.

Solid Medical or Biohazardous Waste:

1. Label a **red biohazard bag** with *building and room number* before filling it.
For research Plant and Soil waste only, clear bag with red biohazard symbol is preferred.
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% household bleach solution for at least 30 minutes.
3. Place **autoclave tape** on the bag to confirm autoclave attainment of adequate sterilization conditions.
4. Contaminated waste must be stored in a labeled, rigid, puncture-proof container with a tight-fitting lid and biohazard symbol on all visible sides and the top.
5. To dispose waste after autoclaving, take the biohazard bag directly to the building dumpster or make special arrangements with building services.
6. All waste must be decontaminated and disposed within seven (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. Do not fill container more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full.

Biohazardous and Medical Waste Storage Area Requirements:

1. Biohazardous and medical waste storage areas must have warning signs on, or adjacent to, exterior doors, gates, or lids in English and Spanish:
“CAUTION – BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA – UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT” and
“CUIDADO – ZONA DE RESIDUOS – BIOLÓGICOS PELIGROSOS – PROHIBIDA LA ENTRADA A PERSONAS NO AUTORIZADAS”
2. The biohazardous and medical waste storage area must be either locked or under direct supervision or surveillance, and remain closed to prevent unauthorized access.

Autoclave Requirements:

1. The autoclave must be spore-tested monthly and all test results must be kept on file at the department for three (3) years. For guidance, contact EH&S Biosafety at 951-827-5528.
2. The autoclave must have a chart recorder. All charts must be dated and kept by the department for three (3) years.
3. All waste treatment runs must be listed on the autoclave log and the logs must be kept by the department for three (3) years.

How to Request Sharps Containers Pickup in WASTE:

1. Login to WASTE at <https://ehs.ucop.edu/waste/#/> and create a “Biological” tag type, or if your sharps are contaminated with hazardous chemicals, create a “Chemical” tag type using the existing profile for sharps contaminated with hazardous chemicals.
2. Update the sharps container tag status in WASTE to “Ready for Pickup” and EH&S will pick up the container.

How to Request Sharps Containers:

Contact EH&S Waste Pickup Services at radiobiowastepickup@ucr.edu to request sharps containers.

How to Request Sharps Containers in WASTE:

1. If you have a sharps container for pickup, create a “Biological” tag type in WASTE, click the checkbox at “Replacement Sharps Container?” If you are using the “Chemical” tag type, request replacement sharps container at “Comments.”
2. Update the sharps container tag status in WASTE to “Ready for Pickup” and EH&S will pick up the sharps container and bring a replacement.

For additional information, contact Environmental Health and Safety
radiobiowastepickup@ucr.edu (951) 827-5528