UC Merced
Medical Waste Management Training

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Classes of MW

MW is classified into three types:

1. Liquid
2. Solid
3. Sharps

- Cultures and stocks (includes growth media & plates)
- Pathological waste
- Human blood and blood products
- Sharps (both used and unused)
Waste Management & Spills

- Labeled on all sides with biohazard symbol.

- Red sharps - for sharps contaminated with Biohazardous Material.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit https://ehs.ucmerced.edu/researchers-labs/medical-waste-management
Purpose of labeling

Bags and sharps containers need to be labeled before waste is added.
Waste Management

Contaminated Liquids:
Make a 10% bleach solution and mix with liq. Waste.
Wait for 20-30 minutes. Dispose of in the sink with running water.

Mixed waste
ALWAYS CONTACT EHS FIRST!
Biohazard +
- Radioisotopes or,
- Hazardous chemicals or,
- Heavy metals

Inactivate the biological material AND follow EHS&S’ direction
Waste Management

Solid waste:
- Red biohazard bags
- Put bags in red RMW container.
- Seal when 2/3rd full
- Autoclave
- Label
- Transfer bag in red biohazard cans located in waste area (caged area)

Medegen Autoclave biohazard bag
Fisher catalog #22-023-800
If using cardboard biohazard box

Label-
“NOT A SHARPS CONTAINER! ONLY dispose biologically contaminated serological pipets and disposable plastic pipette tips”.
Waste Management

Trace Chemotherapy waste:
- double-bagged in red, labeled bags.
- Transfer to yellow waste bins in waste area
Waste Management

Pathology waste:

- double-bagged in red, labeled bags.
- Transfer to grey waste bins inside the refrigerator in waste area
Laboratory Staff **MUST** Autoclave OR Chemically Disinfect the following BEFORE putting it in the Solid MW container:

- Potentially infectious solid waste (BSL2 and higher)
- Tissue or cell culture materials
- rDNA or genetically engineered BSL2 organisms
- **No Liquids in the solid MW container!**

Which disinfectant to use? [Look at the EPA list on the Web!](#)
Which items are sharps?

Sharps include:

- **(All Labs)**
  - scalpels, razor blades, needles, and syringes without needles.

- **(Biohazard Labs Only)**
  - Pasteur pipettes, glass slides & coverslips (used and unused)
  - Broken glassware with biohazard contamination.
Where should sharps go?

For non-biohazard contaminated sharps only

For biohazard contaminated sharps only
Sharps Waste

- Sharps (regardless of use) are to be disposed **IMMEDIATELY** in a sharps container

- **No recapping, bending or snipping needles or re-sheathing of scalpels**

- When full, sharps containers are closed, labeled with an “inner container” label and placed in the solid RMW container
When it's full?

When it reaches the level indicated on the box.
Biological (solid) waste accumulation sites

SE 1: Caged area in SE1-144 (loading dock).

SE 2: Caged area on the main floor across from the freight elevator.

This is how double bagging looks like

Sticker should be placed on top facing upward
NO SHARPS IN THE BAG!

No Needles/Syringes  No Blades  No Glass

BIOLOGICALLY CONTAMINATED
SHARPS MUST GO INTO A
RED SHARPS CONTAINER

PUNCTURES ARE PREVENTABLE!

ehs.ucmerced.edu/researchers-labs/medical-waste-management

Questions? Contact EH&S at 209-228-2347
or biosafety@ucmerced.edu
Medical Waste

The GOOD!

All MW containers must have lids.

Have a sharps and/or solids container inside biosafety

Have a sharps container on bench

The BAD...

Slides, coverslips, glass pipettes, and syringes in a broken glass box.

Liquids, loose syringes, and regular trash
More BAD
For more information visit-
https://ehs.ucmerced.edu/researchers-labs/medical-waste-management
Questions?

Please feel free to contact EH&S at any time

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