

Regulated Medical Waste procedures for GW

Biological waste - YES

- All blood or blood soaked items (large quantities of blood must be solidified, sealed vials with blood are OK). Also, other human body fluids or patient specimens.
- Mammalian cells or tissues, microbiological cultures or recombinant DNA.
- Items that appear to be biological or medical in nature such as used gauze, bench paper, gloves, stained towels or Petri dishes.
- Animal carcasses. If they have traces of formaldehyde from preservation they are OK but no liquid formaldehyde can be present

Bio waste - sharps

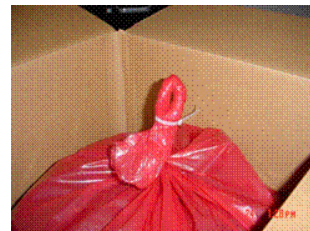
- All contaminated sharp items (ie: needles, broken glass, scalpels, razor blades) go into an OSHA compliant sharps container and never directly into a red bag. All needles go into a sharps container even if unused or capped. Once the sharps container is ready for disposal it must be closed and put in a red bag. When disposing of many glass vials that are likely to break please use a sharps container.

Bio waste - NO

- No liquids: liquids should be disinfected and drain disposed (except blood). Liquid soaked items are OK but please include extra absorbent such as paper towels or vermiculite.
- No regular waste such as uncontaminated notebook paper or packaging but only biological waste
- No hazardous waste such as mercury thermometers, phenol, formaldehyde, or benzene
- Broken glass or large sharp items that are NOT contaminated or potentially contaminated should be put in a sturdy box and sealed for regular trash

Bags must be:

- Only red bags provided by vendor
- Not leaking
- Closed (zip-tied/taped – see pictures)
- No punctures (if pipettes are causing leaks they must go in a sharps container)



Boxes must be:

- Only boxes provided by vendor
- In good condition with no signs of leaking.
- 40 lbs or less (overweight will be repacked by lab)
- Marked with: a) room # b) date c) PI name
- Boxes will be taped shut on pickup

Pick-ups

- If boxes or bags are not acceptable, they will not be picked up (A note telling the problems to correct will be left on the box)
- Repeat violations will be reported
- If not in Ross Hall, please contact safety@gwu.edu to schedule a pickup
- If in Ross Hall, place box outside lab with sealed bag. No boxes can be in the hallway unless the bag is sealed.

Emergency and Other

- No red bags, sharps containers or bio-boxes are to go into regular trash even if they are empty.
- If there is a spill or exposure, follow emergency procedures and call the Office of Laboratory Safety at 4-2630 or Health & Safety at 4-4347. Also, contact OLS with any concerns with service or supplies.