

DISPOSAL OF BIOHAZARDS

Up-dated October 2011

Sharps - defined as sharp items that may cause injury or transmit infectious agents including needles, lancets, surgical blades, microscope slides and other broken glassware. These materials should be placed in a puncture-resistant container, either a metal can or heavy plastic box. If the material is infectious, it should be autoclaved before the box is closed. It should then be labeled and packaged in a large plastic bag. Proper procedure is for our personnel to place this material in the dumpster.

Liquid Wastes - including serum, plasma, and test tubes of blood or serum. The general procedure is to place this material in an autoclavable bag and autoclave the material after which the bag is sealed and placed in one of the dumpsters.

Solid Wastes - including surgical gauze, swabs, gloves and disposable drapes, disposable pipette tips but not including metal or glass. Procedure has been to place this material in a heavy plastic bag or orange biohazard bag, label the material and place it in a dumpster. If the material is potentially infectious, it should be placed first in the orange biohazard bag and then in clear plastic bags and transferred to Veterinary Science for incineration.

Tissue Waste - includes tissues from biopsy or surgery, reproductive tissues and small animal carcasses. General procedure is to place these materials in a leak-proof heavy weight plastic bag and transport to Veterinary Science for same day incineration or store in a cooler until the regularly scheduled incineration at Veterinary Science on Friday afternoons.

Chemical Waste – includes used liquid chemicals. Refer to EHS for a list for proper waste management.