



Sharps Disposal

Purpose

This procedure specifies the proper disposal of sharps to ensure the safety of disposal workers and in accordance with all applicable legislation.

Scope

This procedure applies to the disposal of sharps waste that may be contaminated or uncontaminated by biohazardous agents (Risk Group 1 or Risk Group 2 - refer to the scope of the "Treatment & Disposal of Biohazardous Waste" procedure).

Sharps waste is a form of **biomedical waste**, defined in Part 1 (1) (j) of the BC Hazardous Waste Regulation as *clinical and laboratory sharps waste consisting of needles, syringes, blades or laboratory glass capable of causing punctures or cuts*. Thus, to avoid injuries sharps waste must be carefully and safely handled.

Background

Disposal of sharps waste to regular landfills is prohibited by Metro Vancouver and under the BC Hazardous Waste Regulation 2009.

Sharps (including needles) present both a physical and potentially infectious hazard. To control these hazards, sharps waste must be collected in red or yellow containers made of a rigid, puncture-resistant and impervious plastic that can be autoclaved. Only approved, closable/lockable containers may be used for these wastes and they must not be used for any other purpose. These sharps containers must comply with the most recent Canadian standard *CAN/CSA-Z316.6*.

Chemically decontaminate (e.g. bleach) all infectious items or autoclave the full sharps container, as prescribed by your research laboratory's approved biosafety protocol.

Procedure

A. Sharps contaminated with biohazards

- Collect all sharps (including syringes and needles) in approved plastic sharps containers.
- Do not fill the container past the indicated "Full" line (i.e. 3/4 full).
- Securely close and snap the lid in place.
- Autoclave container if necessary; use chemical indicator/autoclave tape to verify and prove this process was successful.
- Take the full container to the building's designated area for pick-up and disposal.
- DO NOT place any sharps into plastic bags.
- If there is more than one sharps container, place the containers in an unsealed open cardboard box.
- Tag containers with the **Biological Waste Disposal Tag (Red)** shown below.
- Affix your waste generator barcode sticker.
- Identify waste content by checking the appropriate box on the tag and fill out the requested information.
- Sharps containers MUST NOT be placed into the "Glass Waste Only" cans; they are to be taken to the building's designated area for hazardous waste disposal.
- Contact ESF at 604-827-5389 for questions or supplies (red waste tags and generator barcodes).



B. Sharps contaminated with traces of chemicals or cytotoxic drugs

- DO NOT autoclave!
- Collect all sharps (including syringes and needles) in **approved plastic "sharps containers"**.
- Label using the **Biological Waste Disposal tag (Red)** shown below.
- Check "Sharps" under Biomedical waste. Write, e.g. "Sharps contaminated with (traces of) cytotoxics", under "Other".
- Follow similar detailed steps as above (A).

C. Plastic Syringes Uncontaminated (without needles)

- Do NOT remove needles for safety reasons.
- Collect syringe bodies (without needles) in clear plastic bags – if you are using syringes without needles attached.
- Although not technically sharps waste, syringe bodies will become Risk Group 1 waste – to prevent the unauthorized reuse of syringes.
- Do NOT place any glass or other sharps into bags containing Risk Group 1 waste.
- Use only clear, unlabelled, leak proof autoclave bags to contain Risk Group 1 waste. Bags must NOT be marked with any biohazardous warning symbols or warning labels.
- Autoclave bags sufficiently to render the organism in question harmless.
- Double bag waste if necessary and to prevent leaks and breakage during storage or transportation.
- Each bag must not weigh more than **10 kg**.
- Tag the autoclaved bags with the **Biological Waste Disposal tag (Red)** shown below.
- Affix your waste generator number sticker where indicated.
- Check off the box marked "**Autoclaved Risk Group 1**" on the red tag.
- Place bags in the building's designated area for pick-up by ESF
- Contact ESF at 604-827-5389 for questions or supplies (red waste tags and generator barcodes).



Biological Waste Disposal Tag



BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

The University of British Columbia, Environmental Services Facility

Parcel Identification No:

BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL



Parcel Identification No:

GENERATOR TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY

AFFIX IDENTIFICATION BARCODE LABEL HERE

WASTE CONTENT

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autoclaved Risk Group 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Autoclaved Risk Group 2 |
| BIOMEDICAL | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Carcasses Uncontaminated | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Carcasses Contaminated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Blood & Body Fluids | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Anatomical | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceuticals (non-narcotic) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Blood & Body Fluids | <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled drugs (destroyed)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primates* | <input type="checkbox"/> Contaminated solid waste* |

Other * _____

* Contact ESF

Office use only:

Weight _____ Kg



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