

## Biohazard Waste Disposal

Requirements:	EHSA access
PPE:	Autoclave Gloves, Gloves, Eye Protection, Lab Coat
Attachments:	N/A

The following protocol does not apply to animal carcasses. REM does not pickup animal carcasses. Contact Purdue's Animal Disease and Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) for incineration.

### 1. Determine What Type of Biohazard Waste You Have

- 1.1. For the sake of these instructions, it is assumed that you understand what Biohazardous waste is. If not, please visit the EHS site, <https://www.purdue.edu/ehs/rem/waste/biowaste.html#def>.
- 1.2. Determine if you have infectious or look-alike waste because treatment methods will vary. If you are unsure what those are, please visit [Category 1 or 2 Biohazard Waste](#).

### 2. Category 1 (infectious) Waste

- 2.1. Solid biohazard waste should be placed inside of a labeled Biohazardous Waste bag. They are usually orange or red.



- 2.2. Close off the bag by wrapping autoclave tape around the gathered top of the bag.
- 2.3. If the waste is going to be autoclaved, then wrap the top loosely, so steam can escape during the autoclaving process.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Be certain to place your bag of biohazardous waste in an autoclave safe tray, so that no liquids escape the bag during the autoclaving process, which can do significant damage to the autoclave.

### 3. Category 2 (look-alike) waste

3.1. If the waste is look-alike waste, you can move to step 4, without autoclaving.

**IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF WASTE it is, then autoclave as if infectious.**

### 4. Arranging Pickup of Waste

4.1. Assemble the cardboard box that is provided by EHS. These boxes should already be in the room, if not, you need to contact EHS.

4.2. When you are taping the bottom of the box closed, be sure to do so securely, so that the bottom of the box does not open when lifted by EHS personnel. Contact EHS for tape or tape dispenser.

4.3. Once a box is assembled, line the inside of the box with one of the provided black trash bags (EHS will provide these as well). This is simply another layer of safety, so that nothing can leak out of the box, especially once the waste has been autoclaved.



4.4. Each box can accommodate two small bags of waste or one full bag of waste. It is important to not overload the box. The top flaps of the box should close easily once you have loaded it.

4.5. Now tape the top closed and make sure the box is in its designated area. Attach an “approved” sticker on each closed box (contact EHS for these as well).



4.6. Lastly, submit a pickup request on the EHSA website. The link to EHSA can be found here: [Hazardous Waste Disposal - Environmental Health and Safety - Purdue University](#).

## 5. Contaminated Sharps

5.1. Biological contaminated sharps should be treated and managed following the Biological Waste Disposal and Pickup Procedures found at the bottom of this page.

5.2. Chemical contaminated sharps should be submitted as a chemical pickup request on EHSA.

5.3. Biological and chemical contaminated sharps should be treated first as a biological waste. Once the biological agents have been deactivated by either autoclave or chemical disinfection, the remaining chemical waste should be submitted as a chemical pickup request on EHSA.

## 6. Liquid Biological Waste

6.1. Liquid biological waste should be collected in containers for autoclaving or chemical disinfection. Autoclaved or chemically disinfected liquid wastes can be disposed via the laboratory sink.

6.2. **Do not pour melted agarose down the drain.** Allow it to cool and solidify, then dispose of it as solid waste in biohazardous waste bags and follow step 4 for waste pickup.