

Department of Biological Sciences Regulated Medical Waste Guidelines

What is Regulated Medical Waste ?

Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) is material that may be contaminated with infectious agents and includes but is not limited to blood, bodily fluids, and cell culture materials. RMW may also be referred to as "biohazardous" or "infectious waste". RMW must be properly handled and disposed of in order to minimize the risk of transmitting infectious agents or endangering human health.

Examples:

- Cultures and stock of microorganisms and biologicals
- Human blood and body fluids, and items contaminated with human blood or body fluids
- Tissues and other anatomical wastes
- Sharps (needles, syringes with attached needles, suture needles, and scalpels)
- Animal carcasses and related wastes when animals are intentionally infected
- Mixtures and residues of regulated medical waste (from cleanups of RMW spills)
- Solid waste suspected to be capable of producing infectious disease in humans by a health care professional

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Approved Bags

- x Red polypropylene bag that is at least 2 mil thick
 - o No polyethylene. It cannot withstand the autoclaving cycle used for treating medical waste
- x Must have the Biohazard label, at least 2" in size.
- x Must have the words "Potentially Infectious Material " or "Biohazardous"
- x Must have the words "Autoclave Bag"

Example:

- x [Fisherbrand No. 01-828D](#)

The waste must be double bagged and closed with closures, such as a rubber band or twist ties. Do not close the bag too tightly or tie the bag in a knot as air must be able to pass through the opening

Write the PI's name along with building and room number on the bag

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Sharps Waste

- x Must be in an approved sharps container
- x Must have a lid that can be securely sealed to prevent contents from falling out
- x Must be