Biohazardous and Medical Waste Disposal Requirements

**Biohazardous Waste**

includes any laboratory or research waste that is potentially infectious to humans, plants or animals, or would pose a potential threat to the community or the environment (e.g. organisms with significant environmental impact, or transgenic or recombinant organisms).

**Medical Waste**

includes all sharps and any biohazardous waste from research involving the treatment, diagnosis or immunization of humans or animals. Riverside County’s UCR Medical Waste Permit requires anyone generating, treating, or storing medical waste to comply with the following procedures:

1. Place the waste in a red biohazard bag (orange bags are illegal in California).
   **For Research Plant and Soil waste ONLY, may use clear bag with Red Biohazard Symbol on the bag.**
   Do not place glass pipettes or anything that will puncture the plastic bag. Rigid objects such as transfer pipettes can be decontaminated by exposure to a 10% bleach solution for at least 30 minutes.

2. Label biohazard bag with building and room number before filling it.

3. Place autoclave tape on the bag to ensure the autoclave reached proper decontamination temperature.

4. Waste must be stored before contamination in a labeled, rigid, puncture-proof container with a tight-fitting lid and biohazard symbol on all visible sides.

5. For disposal after autoclaving, take the biohazard bag directly to the building dumpster or make special arrangements with building services.

6. All waste must be decontaminated and disposed within seven (7) days of generation if stored at a temperature above 0°C.

7. All waste must be disposed within 90 days if stored at or below 0°C.

8. Place all sharps in a red sharps container that is rigid, leak proof, and has the international biohazard symbol.

**Additional requirements for waste that is Biohazardous Waste and Medical Waste:**

1. Biohazardous and medical waste storage areas must have warning signs on, or adjacent to, exterior doors, gates, or lids in English and Spanish: “CAUTION – BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA – UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT” and “CUIDADO – ZONA DE RESIDUOS – BIOLOGICOS PELIGROSOS – PROHIBIDA LA ENTRADA A PERSONAS NO AUTORIZADAS”

2. The biohazardous and medical waste storage area must be either locked or under direct supervision or surveillance, and remain closed to prevent unauthorized access.

3. The autoclave must be spore-tested monthly, and all test results must be kept on file at the department for three (3) years. For guidance, contact EH&S Biosafety at (951) 827-2648.

4. The autoclave must have a chart recorder. All charts must be dated and kept by the department for three (3) years.

5. All waste treatment runs must be listed on the autoclave log and the logs must be kept by the department for three (3) years.

For more information [www.ehs.ucr.edu](http://www.ehs.ucr.edu)