

12 Months of Research Safety

BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Quick Reminders:

1. **ORANGE** biohazardous waste bags are **ILLEGAL** in California. Using them can lead to regulatory fines.
2. **RED** biohazardous waste bags **MUST** be dual-tested (**ASTM D1709** and **ASTM D1922**) compliant.
3. Refer to the [UCR Laboratory Waste Disposal Requirements](#) for further information on disposing different types of laboratory wastes like pharmaceutical, liquid, sharps, and biohazardous medical waste.
4. Biohazardous waste **best practices** to ensure compliance:
 - a. Double bag your waste and tie it off to prevent leakage or expulsion of contents.
 - b. Label the outer bag with PI name, building, and room # prior to using it.
 - c. Do not leave bags with waste lying outside of a compliant rigid, leak-resistant bin.

What is considered Biohazardous Waste

Biohazardous waste includes materials with recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, or any known or suspected infectious agent present in biological materials, fluids or media, carcasses, and blood or blood products. Culture dishes, plates, and flasks, plants or animals with recombinant/synthetic DNA, soil, and other materials that come into contact with these items are also considered biohazardous waste.

Medical waste includes all waste generated from research involving the treatment, diagnosis, or immunization of humans or animals, including the production or testing of biologicals. Please refer to the [UCR Medical Waste Management Plan](#) for further information.

Compliant Biohazardous Waste Bins

To be compliant:

- Biohazardous waste bins must be rigid, leak-resistant containers made of nonporous materials with a tight-fitting lid.
- Biohazard stickers (can be provided by EH&S) on all four sides and the lid so as to be visible from any direction.
- Must be double-lined with dual-tested compliant biohazardous waste bags.



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Non-Compliant Biohazardous Waste Bins



Common **Non-Compliant** Bins:

- Swing lids do not meet compliance for biohazardous waste (not tight-fitting and potentially aerosol generating).
- Biohazardous waste bag stands or wire racks do not provide for a rigid container.
- Cardboard is porous and not leak resistant.
- Bags **stored** on the floor or a cart or tray.

These examples are **NOT** compliant with the California Medical Waste Management Act.

Biohazardous or Chemical Waste

To ensure compliance and proper waste management, laboratory waste should be segregated and disposed according to guidelines outlined in the [Hazardous Waste Management](#) training on UC Learning Center.

Helpful Reminders:

1. For mixed waste such as chemical and biological, waste should be treated as chemical waste (unless it's pathology waste then it's biological waste for incineration) based on hierarchy of waste segregation and management principles (radiological > chemical > biological).
2. Refer to the [Hazardous Waste Determination Guidance](#) if unsure how to categorize your waste.
 - For example, *Ethidium Bromide* gels and *Phenol Chloroform* extracts are Chemical waste, not Biohazardous waste, and should be disposed of as chemical waste using [WASTE](#).
3. Red sharps containers can be closed, labeled with PI name, building, and room #, and placed in the EH&S provided biohazardous waste bins for pickup and disposal. No WASTE tag needed.

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