

Spotlight On Safety

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WHAT IS BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE?



Biohazardous waste can be any solid or liquid waste that may present a threat of infection to humans. It is important to handle biohazardous waste properly to prevent exposure. Below is a list of the types of waste that are biohazardous.

Biohazardous Waste

- Human or animal specimen cultures from medical and pathology laboratories
- Cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories
- Wastes from the production of bacteria, viruses, spores, discarded live and attenuated vaccines used in human health care or research, discarded animal vaccines, including Brucellosis and Contagious Ecthyma as identified by the department, and culture dishes and de-vices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures
- Human surgery specimens or tissues removed at surgery or autopsy, which are suspected by the attending physician, surgeon or dentist of being contaminated with infectious agents known to be contagious to humans
- Animal parts, tissues, fluids, or carcasses suspected by the attending veterinarian of being contaminated with infectious agents known to be contagious to humans
- Waste, which at the point of transport from the generator's site, at the point of disposal, or thereafter, contains recognizable fluid blood, fluid blood products, containers or equipment containing blood that is fluid, or blood from animals known to be infected with diseases which are highly infectious to humans
- Waste containing discarded materials contaminated with excretion, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals that are required to be isolated by the infection control staff, the attending physician and surgeon, the attending veterinarian, or the local health officer, to protect others from highly communicable diseases or diseases of animals that are highly transmissible to humans
- Waste which is hazardous only because it is comprised of human surgery specimens or tissues that have been fixed in formaldehyde or other fixatives, or only because the waste is contaminated through contact with, or having previously contained chemotherapeutic agents, including, but not limited to, gloves, disposable gowns, towels, and intravenous solution bags and attached tubing that is empty
- Waste that is hazardous only because it is comprised of pharmaceuticals

See the [Medical & Biohazardous Waste Disposal Requirements](#) poster and the [Disposal of Medical & Biological Waste](#) fact sheet to dispose of waste properly. Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu or call EH&S at 827-5528 if you have any questions.