

Liquid Medical Waste



Personal Protective Equipment & Personnel Monitoring

BSL1 or BSL2:



Lab Coat



Gloves



Safety Glasses

BSL2+:



Disposable Gown



Double Gloves



Safety Glasses



Surgical Mask

This SOP applies to individuals working with biohazardous liquid waste (e.g., culture media, human blood). Biohazardous liquid waste contains substances that are dangerous to human health and could contaminate work surfaces and samples. Liquid waste must be appropriately decontaminated and disposed of to reduce the risk of worker or environmental exposure.

Engineering Controls, Equipment & Materials

Biosafety Cabinet: Enclosed, ventilated laboratory workspace that protects the worker from aerosols

Biohazard Liquid Waste Container: Rigid, leak-proof container labeled "BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE" with a secure lid (e.g., bottle with cap, aspiration flask)

Disinfectant: Appropriate to the agent(s) (see Decontamination SOP)

Procedure

1. Collect biohazardous liquids in the liquid waste container
2. Add disinfectant to a sufficient final concentration (%V) to deactivate the agent(s)
3. Wait at least the required contact time
4. Dispose of decontaminated liquid waste as hazardous chemical waste or, only if using bleach, down the drain with excess water

Cautions & Considerations

- Before adding disinfectant to liquid waste, check the chemical compatibility between waste and disinfectant
- Bleach can only be disposed of down the drain if the waste contains no other chemical hazards
- Prime aspiration flasks with disinfectant before collecting liquid waste and review the Aspiration Flask Setup, Use & Maintenance SOP