

## Solid Medical Waste

This SOP applies to disposal of solid medical waste. Solid medical waste includes items (e.g., petri dishes, pipette tips, tissue culture flasks, gloves) that came in contact with biohazardous agents.

There are four medical waste streams: biohazard, pathology, trace chemotherapy and pharmaceutical (see page 2). Contaminated solid medical waste offers an ideal environment for microbe growth at room temperature. It is important to dispose of waste immediately after generation to protect personnel from accidental exposure. The guidelines below are compliant with the state of California's [Medical Waste Management Act](#).



### Personal Protective Equipment & Personnel Monitoring

#### BSL1 or BSL2:



Lab Coat



Gloves



Safety Glasses

#### BSL2+:



Disposable Gown



Double Gloves



Safety Glasses



Surgical Mask

### Engineering Controls, Equipment & Materials

**Medical Waste Container:** Rigid, non-porous, leak-resistant, lidded container lined with a medical waste bag and labelled on all lateral sides and the lid with the universal biohazard symbol or other appropriate labels (e.g., "PATH")

**Medical Waste Bag:** Red biohazard bag marked with ASTM D1709 Dart Resistance and D1922 Tear Resistance and sized to fit the container

### Procedure

1. Dispose of solid medical waste in a medical waste container lined with a medical waste bag
2. When  $\frac{3}{4}$  full or within 7 days, securely tie medical waste bag with an overhand knot or gooseneck tie so that the contents cannot spill out when upside down
3. Decontaminate the outside of the secondary transport container before exiting lab
4. Transport solid medical waste to a medical waste accumulation area in a secondary container
5. Dispose of solid waste in the appropriate vendor waste barrel (see Cautions & Considerations for more information)

### Cautions & Considerations





- Medical waste streams must be segregated properly (see page 2)
- Yellow (for trace chemo) or white (for pathology) medical waste bags complying with Medical Waste Management Act requirements are permitted; red bags are always acceptable
- When working in a biosafety cabinet, use a medical waste container inside the BSC
- Remove PPE before entering public corridors during transport of medical waste
- Double bag waste when disposing of serological pipettes

# Environmental Health and Safety

## Cautions & Considerations Continued...

- Medical waste must be stored in a secured location at all times
- Waste generated at BSL2+ must be pretreated (e.g., by autoclaving) before disposal in the medical waste accumulation site

## Medical Waste Streams

Biohazard	Pathology	Trace Chemo	Pharmaceutical
			
<p>Items contaminated with or exposed to human materials or potentially infectious agents that do not contain any other hazards</p>	<p>Recognizable human or animal tissues (fixed or unfixed) Animal carcasses Prion-contaminated materials</p>	<p><b>Empty</b> materials contaminated with chemotherapeutic agents Items that are not empty are discarded as <a href="#">chemical hazardous waste</a></p>	<p>Prescription or over-the-counter human or veterinary drugs No controlled substances, <a href="#">RCRA-regulated hazards</a> or radioactive materials</p>
<p>44- or 90-gallon (large) red barrels for autoclaving and landfill</p>	<p>20-gallon (small) red barrels labeled for incineration</p>	<p>20-gallon (small) yellow barrels labeled for incineration</p>	<p>Closed containers labeled for incineration are placed upright on the ground at the accumulation site <b>Do not</b> place in vendor barrels</p>