

BIOMEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

PLEASE REFER TO THE USF BIOMEDICAL WASTE PLAN OR CONTACT EH&S FOR MORE INFORMATION

IDENTIFICATION

Biomedical waste is any solid or liquid waste which may present a threat of infection to humans.

- Body fluids (excluding urine, feces, vomit, saliva, sweat, tears and sputum)
- Blood and blood products
- Animals, animal and human parts/tissues/blood that contain human disease-causing agents
- Used absorbent materials such as bandages, gauze, or sponges which are saturated with blood or body fluids
- Non-absorbent items visibly contaminated with body fluids (i.e. plastic, vinyl, latex, rubber, glass devices)
- Needles and needle-syringe units (whether infectious or not). **Do not recap needles.**
- Scalpels, razor blades, hard plastic or glass contaminated with tissues, blood, blood products, or body fluids.

SEGREGATION

Biomedical waste must be separated from all other waste and placed in either a sharps container or a red bag at the point of origin.

Biomedical waste mixed with chemical waste must be managed as hazardous waste. Separate if possible.

Dispose of only biomedical waste into biomedical waste containers – no regular trash.

The following may be placed into the regular trash if not contaminated with biomedical waste:

- Non-infectious pipettes, tubes, tubing or other glass or plastic containers
- Non-infectious scalpels, razors, glass or plastic (e.g. centrifuge tubes, microcentrifuge or Eppendorf tubes, curettes and capped tubes)

These materials must be packaged to prevent sharp points or edges from protruding through a regular trash bag containers and do not present a threat of infection to humans.



LABELING & HANDLING

All sealed biomedical red bags and sharps containers must be labeled with the universal biomedical waste symbol and the words "Biomedical Waste", the facility name (e.g. USF), address, phone number and contact name

Wear a lab coat and gloves and use a rolling cart to transfer waste to an outside storage container.

STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Red bags must meet ASTM D1922-89 and ASTM D1709-91 standards. Contact the manufacturer to ensure requirements are met prior to ordering. Biomedical waste must not be stored for more than 30 days after the first non-sharps item of biomedical waste is placed into a red bag or sharps container, or when a sharps container that contains only sharps is sealed.

Storage areas must have restricted access. Contractor transports and disposes of all biomedical wastes. Current contractor is: Stericycle, Inc. Eaton Park, FL (Treatment Facility)