

## Sharps Disposal



It is the responsibility of **Principal Investigators (PI)** to ensure waste has been correctly segregated and lab personnel follow the proper procedure.

### Purpose

This procedure specifies the proper disposal of sharps to ensure the safety of disposal workers and in accordance with all applicable legislation.

### Scope

This procedure applies to the disposal of sharps waste generated by research facilities and laboratories at UBC Point Grey campus that may be contaminated or uncontaminated. Contamination agents may be biohazardous or chemical.

**Sharps waste** is a form of **biomedical** waste, defined in Part 1 (1) (j) of the BC Hazardous Waste Regulation as *clinical and laboratory sharps waste consisting of needles, syringes, blades or laboratory glass or hard plastic\* capable of causing punctures or cuts*. Thus, to avoid injuries sharps waste must be carefully and safely handled.

*\*disposal of hard, sharp plastics in this manner is a best practice and not a requirement*

### Background

Disposal of sharps waste to regular landfills is prohibited by Metro Vancouver and under the BC Hazardous Waste Regulation 2009.

Sharps (including needles) present both a physical and potentially infectious hazard. To control these hazards, sharps waste must be collected in red or yellow containers made of a rigid, puncture-resistant and impervious plastic that comply with the most recent Canadian standard CAN/CSA-Z316.6. Only approved, closable/lockable containers may be used for these wastes and they must not be used for any other purpose.

Seal the full sharps container with packing tape to prevent leakage.

Note that CL3 facilities must autoclave sharps containers prior to disposal, and should take special care to verify that no punctures have occurred during processing prior to handling of the containers.

**Sharps containers must NOT be placed into the "Glass Waste Only" cans;** these cans are part of a completely different waste stream and expected to be free of chemical or biological hazard!

Contact our **ESF Technicians** for questions or supplies (red waste tags and generator barcodes). Note that ESF does not supply sharps containers.



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## Procedure



### Sharps contaminated with biohazards

- ✓ Collect all sharps (including syringes and needles) in approved plastic sharps containers.
- ✓ Do NOT fill the container past the indicated "Full" line (i.e. 3/4 full).
- ✓ Securely close and snap the lid in place. Using packing tape to seal lid closed sufficiently to prevent opening or seepage during transport.
- ✓ Autoclave container if necessary due to CL3; use chemical indicator/autoclave tape to verify and prove this process was successful.
- ✓ Do NOT place any sharps into plastic bags.
- ✓ Tag containers with the **Biological Waste Disposal Tag (Red)** shown below.
- ✓ Affix your waste generator barcode sticker.
- ✓ Identify waste content by checking the appropriate box on the tag and fill out the requested information.
- ✓ If there is more than one sharps container, place the containers in an unsealed open cardboard box.
- ✓ Take the full container directly to the building's designated area for pick-up and disposal.



### Sharps contaminated with traces of chemicals or cytotoxic drugs

- ✓ **Do NOT autoclave!**
- ✓ Collect all sharps (including syringes and needles) in approved, plastic sharps containers.
- ✓ Do NOT fill the container past the indicated "Full" line (i.e. 3/4 full).
- ✓ Securely close and snap the lid in place. Using packing tape to seal lid closed sufficiently to prevent opening or seepage during transport.
- ✓ Do NOT place any sharps into plastic bags.
- ✓ Tag containers with the **Biological Waste Disposal Tag (Red)** shown below.
- ✓ Affix your waste generator barcode sticker.
- ✓ Check "**Sharps**" under Biomedical waste. Write, e.g. "Sharps contaminated with (traces of) chemicals or cytotoxics", under "**Other**".
- ✓ If there is more than one sharps container, place the containers in an unsealed open cardboard box.
- ✓ Take the full container to the building's designated area for pick-up and disposal.



### Plastic Syringes Uncontaminated – Without needles

*Although not technically sharps waste, syringe bodies will become Risk Group 1 waste – to prevent health risks associated with the reuse of syringes.*

- ✓ **Do NOT remove needles for safety reasons!**
- ✓ If you are using syringes without needles attached - collect syringe bodies (without needles) in clear plastic bags
- ✓ Do NOT place any glass or other sharps into bags containing Risk Group 1 waste.
- ✓ Use only clear, unlabelled, leak proof autoclave bags to contain Risk Group 1 waste.
- ✓ Bags must NOT be marked with any biohazardous warning symbols or warning labels.
- ✓ Autoclave bags sufficiently to render the organism in question harmless.
- ✓ Double bag waste if necessary and to prevent leaks and breakage during storage or transportation.
- ✓ Ensure each bag weighs less than 10 kg.
- ✓ Tag the autoclaved bags with the **Biological Waste Disposal tag (Red)** shown below.
- ✓ Affix your waste generator number sticker where indicated.
- ✓ Check off the box marked “**Autoclaved Risk Group 1**” on the red tag.
- ✓ Take bags to the building's designated area for pick-up and disposal.



### Biological Waste Disposal Tag



## BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

The University of British Columbia, Environmental Services Facility

Parcel Identification No:

## BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL



Parcel Identification No:

**GENERATOR TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY**

AFFIX IDENTIFICATION BARCODE LABEL HERE

**WASTE CONTENT**

<input type="checkbox"/> Autoclaved Risk Group 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Autoclaved Risk Group 2
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**BIOMEDICAL**

<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Carcasses Uncontaminated	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Carcasses Contaminated
<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Blood & Body Fluids	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharps
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Anatomical	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceuticals (non-narcotic)
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Blood & Body Fluids	<input type="checkbox"/> Controlled drugs (destroyed)*
<input type="checkbox"/> Primates*	<input type="checkbox"/> Contaminated solid waste*

Other \* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Contact ESF

Office use only:

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Kg



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