



**Santa Clara  
University**

## MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

Waste Category	Examples	Treatment and Disposal
<p><b>Liquid human and animal waste</b> Blood, blood products, body fluids</p> <p>DOES NOT INCLUDE urine or materials stained with dried blood.</p>	<p>Student blood Animal blood</p>	<p>Not autoclavable</p> <p>Collect in an approved biowaste container lined with a red biohazard bag. Store and package in place</p> <p>Waste transportation and disposal by licensed contractor</p>
<p><b>Medical Sharps</b> <b>Potentially pathogenic or infectious</b></p> <p>DOES NOT INCLUDE: Non-contaminated sharps (see Standard Sharps below)</p>	<p>Needles Syringes with or without needles attached Scalpels</p>	<p>Not autoclavable</p> <p>Collect in approved red sharps container. When the sharps container is <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> full, close it, double bag in red biohazard bags and seal the bags. Disinfect the outside of the biohazard bag using an approved disinfectant and then place bag completely inside the biological waste bins in the designated storage area.</p>
<p><b>Standard Sharps</b> Not contaminated Contaminated with biological materials that are not pathogenic DOES NOT INCLUDE: Medical Sharps (see above)</p>	<p>Pasteur pipettes Slides Broken glassware</p>	<p>Not autoclavable</p> <p>Collect uncontaminated broken glassware, etc. in a Glass Waste cardboard box.</p> <p>Note: Do not dispose of in regular trash</p>
<p><b>Solid Waste (non-sharp)</b> Solid objects, no liquids Contaminated with biological materials that are not pathogenic</p>	<p>Gloves Paper towels Culture or blood tubes Plasticware i.e., culture plates, specimen vials, pipette tips</p>	<p>Autoclavable</p> <p>Soak reusable equipment in a disinfectant.</p> <p>Collect in an autoclavable biohazard bag. Sterilize with autoclave as directed. Once properly packaged, may be disposed of in municipal trash.</p>
<p><b>“Mixed” Biological Waste</b> Material with one or more hazardous components other than biohazards.</p>	<p>Alcohol/biological mixtures Formalin/tissue mixtures Radioisotope marked cell cultures or microbes</p>	<p>Not autoclavable</p> <p>Contact EHS staff for assistance in handling mixed hazard wastes.</p> <p>(1) Organic solvents, like ethanol or formalin solutions, are not autoclavable and must be drained off for disposal as hazardous waste</p> <p>(2) Biological waste contaminated with radioactive materials requires special handling. Contact Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) for disposal or questions about radioactive waste</p>