



BIOLOGICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES Indiana University – Bloomington



The biological waste management program at IUB is administered by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) in accordance with state regulation 410 IAC 1-3, other applicable regulations, and University policies developed by the IUB Biosafety Officer (BSO) and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). It is the responsibility of each researcher or department to properly dispose of any biological waste that is generated as a result of research or departmental operations. These guidelines have been developed as a tool to assist in that responsibility. They address the most common general categories of biological wastes and are not intended to be all-inclusive or to supersede any alternate waste management procedures specified in research protocols as approved by the BSO or IBC. If you have questions please contact EHS or the BSO at 856-3638.

Remember: If your research protocol specifies alternate procedures, follow your protocol!

Biohazardous Liquid Waste – any liquid waste that is potentially infectious to humans, animals or plants or that contains cells or tissues with recombinant DNA. This includes any liquids contaminated with human tissues, blood, and fluids and any liquids contaminated with cells or fluids from transgenic animals.

Decontaminate by treatment with an appropriate chemical disinfectant and dispose to the sanitary sewer. The amount of disinfection time will depend on the chemical used and the material being decontaminated. For specific procedures, refer to your protocol or contact the BSO.

Biohazardous Solid Waste – any solid waste (i.e. media cultures, glassware, plastic, paper, etc.) contaminated with potentially infectious agents, human tissues, blood and fluids, recombinant DNA, or transgenic materials.

Place material in clear autoclave bags (do not use red/orange biohazard bags), seal, attach a strip of autoclave tape and autoclave. Remove or deface any biohazard labels or tags, and place in a regular solid waste receptacle according to building requirements.

Sharps – must be placed in puncture proof containers or approved sharps containers; if red containers are used, they must be given to EHS for proper disposal.

Experimentally infected or transgenic animals or tissues – must be placed in red/orange biohazard bags, labeled with a properly completed “Biohazard Tag” (available from the Jordan Hall stockroom or EHS), frozen, and given to EHS for proper disposal.

Non-Hazardous Biological Waste – any waste of biological origin that is not known to be infectious. This includes animals not experimentally infected and their bedding.

Non-infectious animals and tissues – Place material in opaque puncture resistant bags, label as “non-infectious animal waste,” place in freezer, and request EHS pickup online.

Animal bedding – Place material in regular trash bags, seal, and dispose in a regular solid waste receptacle according to building requirements.

Sharps that have no biohazardous contamination – secure in a non-red, puncture proof container, label as “non-hazardous sharps,” and dispose in a regular solid waste receptacle according to building requirements. Sharps include razor blades, syringes, and any glass items that may break and cause cuts or punctures to waste handlers.

To request a pickup by EHS please go to www.ehs.indiana.edu and complete the online request form by clicking on the “Request Assistance” link and choosing “Request a waste pickup.” Frozen waste will be collected by request on Tuesday mornings. Other waste will be collected from Jordan Hall and Myers Hall on alternating Tuesdays and from other campus locations on Thursdays. Waste from Simon Hall and Chemistry should be brought to a scheduled waste collection in CH A027 on Thursday afternoons. Refer to the current ***Chemical, Biological, and Radioactive Waste Collection Schedule*** available online for details.