



## PROPER DISPOSAL OF BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE

What is regulated medical (biohazardous) waste? For the purposes of waste disposal, biohazard waste includes blood and blood products, excretions, exudates, secretions, and other bodily fluids; cultures and stocks of etiological agents; recombinant DNA; needles and sharp objects; and surgical and pathological specimens.

Biological waste must either be incinerated or sterilized with steam in a dedicated autoclave. The biological waste disposal vendor for UTHSC is Stericycle. Stericycle is responsible for removal of properly packaged and sealed boxes (or barrels) of biological waste materials from designated locations.

Each individual generator is responsible for setting up their sub account with Stericycle. The sub account format is needed to track waste generation data for regulatory reporting purposes. There is no cost/charge to the generator or department for waste disposal.

When setting up a new sub account, provide the name of the department generating the waste, the location (building and room) from which pickup will be made, needed initial supplies (containers, boxes and liners) and the requested frequency of pickup (daily, weekly, monthly, or as needed).

Stericycle will provide the biohazard boxes, red liners for the boxes, bar code labels and sealing tape for the boxes. The red liners, bar code labels and sealing tape should be located in autoclave rooms or in a general assigned area.

If there is a change in pickup schedule, service cancellation or additional supplies are needed, please call Stericycle at (901) 948-1131, extension 14. If the university will be closed on a normally scheduled day for pick-up, you must call Stericycle to cancel.

Provided below are general instructions for handling biohazardous waste.



Construct the biohazardous waste box with the supplies provided by Stericycle. The box should be oriented to match the orientation arrows on the side of the box. The Stericycle boxes must be lined with a red bag that is delivered by Stericycle with the biohazard waste boxes.

As biohazardous material is autoclaved by the laboratory personnel, the user will be responsible for putting the autoclaved bags into the biohazard boxes. The boxes are normally located near autoclaves or assigned areas. All laboratory waste must be contained within a bag prior to being placed into the red bag lined box.

Housekeeping will not dispose of autoclaved biohazard material in regular trash.

The last researcher to fill a biohazard box will be required to twist tie the red liner, close the lid, tape the box and ensure that the bar code label is affixed to the waste box. There is a space on the side of the box that states "CUSTOMER LABEL", where the bar code should be attached.

**NOTE: STERICYCLE WILL NOT PICK UP THE TAPED, SEALED, FILLED BOXES UNLESS THE BAR CODE LABEL INFORMATION IS AFFIXED TO THE SIDE OF THE BOX.**

Once the boxes are filled, taped/sealed and the bar code label affixed, a Stericycle employee will remove the biohazard boxes from that centralized area (as designated by the department or lab) on that generator's scheduled pickup day.

If you have any problems with hazardous waste handling, please feel free to contact Safety Affairs at (901) 448-6114.

