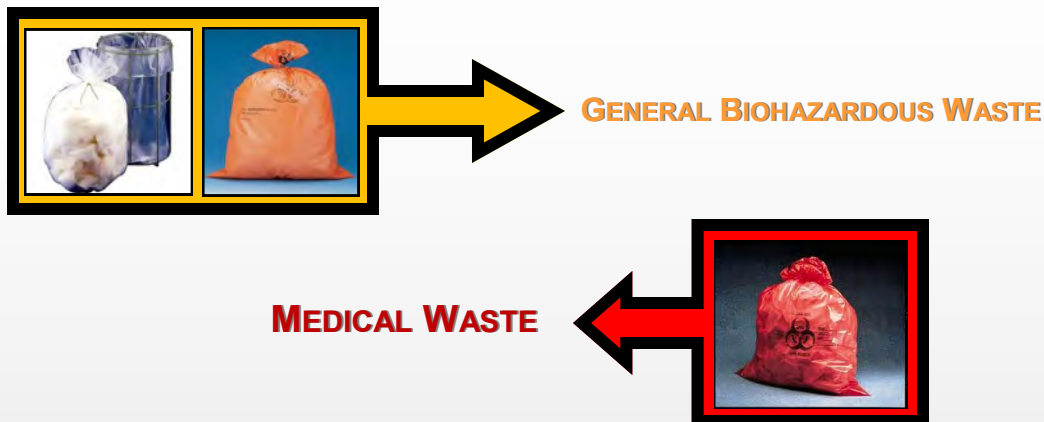




## Does your lab use RED bags?



In University of Kentucky research laboratory locations, red bags with the universal biohazard warning label should **ONLY** be used for medical waste, also referred to as pathological waste. This type of waste includes large amounts of human blood or tissues (>500 ml). Intentionally infected animal carcasses are also disposed of in red bags and proper DLAR procedures for disposal should be observed. At the University of Kentucky, medical waste is not autoclaved and instead is incinerated by a licensed vendor. Therefore laboratory disposal of this waste requires special designation by the use of a red bag.

Other biohazardous waste such as cell culture, small amounts of human or animal blood, or recombinant nucleic acid materials should **NOT** be disposed of in a red bag and only requires chemical disinfectant (ex: 10% bleach) or autoclaving before disposal. Biohazardous waste that is not medical waste must **only** be disposed of in **clear or orange** autoclave bags. Red bags should **never** be used for regular or autoclaved waste. The use of a red bag for these items causes confusion for housekeeping staff and unnecessary cost to process. If you are unsure of whether or not the waste your lab generates is considered medical waste, please contact our office.

The Department of Biological Safety routinely inspects research laboratories. Improper use of red bags will be noted, the PI of the laboratory contacted, and information distributed regarding the use of red bags and proper disposal methods. We are also introducing a Red Bag Exchange Program. If your lab currently has red bags but is not generating medical waste, please contact our office to exchange your red bags for orange autoclave bags.

If your research laboratory is producing legitimate red bag waste, please contact our department to be put on the authorized users list, thereby ensuring you have proper disposal containers and receive pick up service.

### Have you been asked to provide a certificate or proof of training?

To look up your current training dates for specific modules hosted by Environmental Health and Safety such as Lab Safety, Biological Safety, etc. you can visit the following Class Participation website to look up your information. In most cases a screen print of the information is sufficient for documentation.

[http://ehs.uky.edu/WebSite11/class\\_participant\\_search\\_0001.aspx](http://ehs.uky.edu/WebSite11/class_participant_search_0001.aspx)

## Biosafety Reminders:



Any vacuum line in use should be protected by a filter with both hydrophobic and HEPA components. Remember to add disinfectant appropriate for the materials in use to your trap flask and to empty it when 2/3 full!

Laboratory rooms should be locked when unoccupied and any biohazardous materials secured when not in use!



The use of a bunsen burners or open flame in a biological safety cabinet (BSC) is prohibited at the University of Kentucky! An open flame in a BSC is not necessary as the environment is already considered aseptic when the BSC is certified. The flame creates turbulence which disturbs the laminar flow of the unit as well as creates a fire hazard from the buildup of heat within the canopy. If heat sterilization is necessary we recommend purchasing an electric burner or disposable sterile loops.



- **Is your lab leaving the university or simply moving to a different location?**
- **Do you have contaminated equipment which is broken or simply needs to be moved to surplus?**

**If so, please contact us for guidance on proper decontamination procedures and to set up an appointment to receive clearance.**



**American  
Red Cross**

**Free Printable guide to CPR/First Aid and AED**

**<http://editiondigital.net/publication/?i=63248>**



University of Kentucky

## Department of Biological Safety

As part of the Division of Environmental Health & Safety, the Department of Biological Safety is responsible for programs concerning the safe use of recombinant DNA, infectious agents, and potentially infectious materials such as human sourced materials in the research and teaching laboratories at the University of Kentucky. This includes training, auditing, and consulting with researchers, laboratory personnel and teaching staff concerning compliance with the federal and state laws and regulations in these areas.

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**Visit us on the web!**

**<http://ehs.uky.edu/ehs/biosafety/>**