

8. Hazardous Waste Management

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ANNUAL REVIEW:

REVIEWED <u>Sanford N. Bailey, M.D.</u>	<u>July-15-2025</u>
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SUPERSEDES: Procedure titled _____

Purpose:

Handling and disposal of waste generated during laboratory experiments must be conducted

According to MMCCCL policies. For a full description of waste handling and disposal procedures, see Meharry Hazardous waste management site.

<https://home.mmc.edu/ehs/>

Covers all laboratory personnel

Health and Safety:

Always be sure to wear proper PPE when handling hazardous waste.

Abbreviations:

MMCCCL - MMCCCL- Meharry Medical College Clinical Consolidated Laboratory

PPE-personal protective equipment

OSHA- Occupational Safety and Health Administration's

Policy:

MMCCCL will properly identify and dispose of hazardous biological and chemical waste.

Procedure:

Categories of biological waste and acceptable treatments

All employee of MMCCCL get training at the during the orientation week; and is available at Meharry web site:

<https://home.mmc.edu/ehs/hazardous-waste/>

Which includes:

[Hazardous Material Management Plan](#)

[Biological Waste Disposal](#)

[Glass Waste Disposal](#)

[Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal](#)

Only those individuals who have successfully completed the laboratory Biological Safety Training Program are allowed to handle biohazardous waste. Universal and Standard Precautions and proper PPE are vital to safe handling of such waste. Individuals working with biological agents or potentially infectious material must

properly dispose of such waste in accordance with all pertinent regulations, including but not limited to the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

Mixed Waste

Creation of mixed wastes, biological waste and hazardous materials/bio-waste should be avoided whenever possible. If experimental design or procedure leaves no other option, the General Supervisor or Safety Officer must be consulted prior to initiation of the procedure.

Sharps

This category includes needles, syringes with attached needles, capillary tubes, slides and coverslips, scalpel blades, and broken glassware that is contaminated with biological material. These items should be placed in a puncture-resistant container (sharps container). Place the sharps container in the regulated medical waste for disposal.

Pipette Tips

Pipette tips used to process human body fluids, should be placed in a “pipette tip” biohazard bag in a lab bench stand. Once filled, these bags should be placed in the regulated medical waste for disposal. Non infectious pipettes do not need to be placed in biohazard bags and can be disposed of in the non-hazardous waste. Non-infectious pipette tips should be placed in the regulated medical waste.

Specimens of human blood

These items should be discarded in a biohazard bag then placed in the regulated medical waste box for disposal.

Solid Waste

This category includes disposable gloves, gauze, paper wrappings, parafilm, etc., that are minimally contaminated. These items should be discarded in the regulated medical waste box.

References

<https://home.mmc.edu/ehs/hazardous-waste/>