










Biological waste disposal guide



Waste type	Description	Storage	Labelling	Decontamination method	Disposal	Related legislation or standard
Mixed waste	If waste contains radioactive materials treat as radioactive waste. Red waste bags/containers If waste contains hazardous chemicals treat as hazardous chemical waste. If waste contains cytotoxic's treat as cytotoxic waste. Purple waste bags/containers					
Sharps	Any of these devices if contaminated with biohazardous material: Hypodermic needles, needles with syringes or tubing, blades, glass slides, microfluidics on glass slides, other disposable glassware	Use an approved sharps container. Container must be leak-proof, rigid, puncture resistant, clearly marked for biohazardous waste and can be sealed when ready for disposal (Never fill beyond black line on container). Once full can be sealed and placed in yellow clinical waste bin.		N/A	Waste contractor collection	AS/NZS 2243.3
Solid	Any of the following contaminated with biohazardous materials: Plastic pipettes, Pipette tips, syringes without needles, petri dishes,	1:- Waste that will be autoclaved before disposal is to be placed in a metal bin lined with an approved autoclave bag.	1.  2. 	1. Autoclaved 2. Non-autoclaved	1. If autoclaved can be disposed of as general waste. 2. Waste contractor collection	AS/NZS 2243.3

Liquid	plastic culture flasks, paper towels, bench paper, gloves. There are 2 options for disposal.	2. Waste that will not be decontaminated before disposal must be sealed in appropriately labelled “yellow contaminated waste bags”. The bags are then disposed of in Clinical Waste bins (yellow (yellow, lid, yellow base). Fill out waste log.				
	Liquid biohazardous cultures or specimens, including human and animal blood, body fluids, tissue culture, microorganisms, viruses and culture medium.	Store in leak proof unbreakable containers		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chemically decontaminate 2. Autoclave 	Can be disposed of down the sink if identified as non-hazardous after decontaminating	AS/NZS 2243.3
Non-hazardous Animal tissue or carcasses	Deceased animals or animal tissue that has been used for research or teaching,	Animal carcasses and tissue must be placed in a yellow clinical waste bag, sealed & biological waste label affixed before freezing.		N/A	Waste contractor collection	AS/NZS 2243.3

		Only place in Clinical Waste bins (yellow lid, yellow base) on day of waste collection. Fill out waste log.				
Hazardous Animal tissue or Carcasses	Deceased animals or animal tissue that has been used for research or teaching, and contain biohazardous substances (including GM animals). Carcasses and tissues that have been contaminated with any other hazardous substances are mixed waste.	Freeze Animal carcasses and tissue must be placed in a yellow clinical waste bag, sealed & biological waste label affixed before freezing. Only place in Clinical Waste bins (yellow lid, yellow base) on day of waste collection. Fill out waste log.		Autoclave	General waste (once autoclaved)	AS/NZS 2243.3
Human tissues or recognisable body parts	Human tissues include tissue, organs, limbs, free-flowing or expressible blood, and other body fluids.	Freeze		Autoclave	The management and disposal of these types of wastes needs to be conducted with public	AS/NZS 2243.3 NSW Anatomy Act and Regulation

					perception and aesthetic considerations in mind. Human tissues, blood or body parts must never be placed in the ordinary garbage stream, even if decontaminated.	
GMO	Any substance containing genetically modified materials	Metal bin lined with autoclave bag (if autoclaving) Unbreakable container with appropriate decontaminate if chemically disinfecting	Must be labelled as GMO 	Autoclave or chemically decontaminate	Follow liquid and solid guide	OGTR Guidelines for the transportation, storage and disposal of GMOs
Biosecurity	Biosecurity waste	Where waste cannot be disposed of immediately there must be minimum provision for: -a separate storage device/area -storage in lidded bins/containers that are leak proof -all waste must be double bagged	Must be labelled as biosecurity waste 	Autoclave or Chemically decontaminate Minimum autoclaving times after reaching 121 degrees shall be either -core temperature for 15mins. You must specify how core temperature was	General waste (once autoclaved) Or Chemically decontaminated waste that is classified as non-hazardous can be poured down the sink	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources requirements for approved arrangements

				<p>reached and how it was recorded.</p> <p>-for 30 mins where core temperature is not recorded.</p> <p>Autoclave run needs to be recorded and autoclave printout needs to be photocopied and kept, by laboratory</p>		
Prions	<p>Prions (including Gerstmann-Straussler syndrome, Kuru and Creutzfeldt-Jakob agents) are resistant to most traditional methods of inactivation used for other microorganisms. Prions should be thoroughly decontaminated in accordance with the decontamination guidelines for prions and then treated as cytotoxic waste to ensure the material will be incinerated</p>			<p>Refer to AS2243.3 for appropriate decontamination method</p>		<p>AS/NZS 2243.3</p>
Mixed waste	<p>If waste contains radioactive materials treat as radioactive waste. Red waste bags/containers</p>					

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