



Disposal and Removal of Bio-Waste

Packaging Bio-waste

**NOTE: Consult EHS about the disposal of liquid biowaste.

Non-sharps:

1. Obtain the necessary supplies—a bio-waste box, two biohazard bags, packaging tape, and a permanent marker. Infectious waste disposal supplies will be provided to you upon request, as well as when bio-waste containers are picked up.
2. Tape the bottom of the box together along all the seams with packaging tape. Line with the two biohazard bags. Fill the box only about 2/3 to 3/4 full, or such that the box weighs no more than 40 lbs. As a general rule, if you cannot comfortably lift and carry the box 10 steps, it is too full. Damaged boxes, boxes exceeding 40 lbs, or boxes bulging at the seams will not be accepted and will require repackaging.
3. Knot the individual bags and seal the top on all sides with packaging tape, as you did the bottom.
4. Write the lab location as well as the lab generator's (i.e. Principal Investigator) name and phone number on the top of the box.
5. Submit a waste request for pick-up.



Sharps:

Anything capable of cutting or puncturing skin—contaminated Pasteur pipettes, needles and syringes, razor blades, scalpels, microtome blades, glass microscope slides, cover slips, etc.—is considered a sharp and should be disposed of in a hard-walled (plastic) biohazard sharps container. Classification of micropipette tips as sharps or non-sharps waste is up to the discretion of the lab, but the ultimate destination must be either a biowaste box or a sharps container.



1. Place sharps directly into the sharps container. Please make sure to not recap, shear, or bend needles, as this increases the risk of a sharps injury.
2. Fill the container only up to the "full line" marked on the exterior (about 2/3 to 3/4 full), as going over the line increases the risk of a sharps injury.

3. To close and seal the container, snap the inserts on the top of the container into place (you should hear a click and not be able to open the container again) and use packaging tape to ensure that the lid is fully sealed.
4. Submit a waste request for pick-up.

Submitting a Waste Request

Unless a waste removal request is submitted, EHS personnel will not know to pick up your bio-waste. Requests are submitted electronically on the EHS website and are used for tracking the generation of biowaste across campus. You can check and download the schedule of pick-up times for your specific location on the EHS website under "Biological Safety." Please submit requests no later than 48 hours before the scheduled pick-up date to ensure that EHS has enough time set aside to remove the waste.



1. Visit the EHS website (<https://www.cmu.edu/ehs/index.html>). Click on "Biological Waste Online Pickup Request Form" in the sidebar. From there, click on the "Biological Waste Pickup Schedule" to check the removal schedule.
2. Fill in all the information on the request form as completely as possible. The more descriptive you are, the easier it will be for EHS to remove the waste. At minimum, submit your name, contact information, location of the waste, number of boxes, size of boxes, and contents of boxes. This allows EHS to bring the correct number of replacement boxes and bags and lets us know how the waste should be stored and shipped. Also, if you wish to have any extra supplies brought to you, this would be the best time to request them.

For any questions on how to properly package and dispose of bio-waste, please contact safety@andrew.cmu.edu.