

Safety Guideline

Biohazard Waste Disposal

Biohazardous waste (infectious or medical waste) is waste contaminated with biological material that is infectious or potentially infectious to humans, animals, or plants. Materials contaminated with recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids, as well as genetically modified organisms, are also considered biohazardous. Please contact Environmental Services (EVS) at (402) 559-4073 for biohazard waste containers. The department must purchase its own disposable sharps containers.

General Biohazardous Waste Categories

- Microbiological waste includes, but is not limited to, cultures and disposable culture materials, stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, and discarded live and attenuated vaccines.
- Human blood and blood products (dripable or dried blood that can be dislodged during handling).
- Human tissues, body fluids or other potentially infectious materials including but not limited to unfixed human cell lines, tissues, pathology specimens, and used specimen containers.
- Contaminated animal waste including carcasses, blood and body fluid, body parts, and excrement/bedding from animals infected with a pathogen.
- Synthetic or recombinant nucleic acid materials.

Sharps Waste

- Biohazardous sharps waste includes but is not limited to needles, syringes, scalpels, glass microscope slides, coverslips, glass blood vials, Pasteur pipettes, plastic sharps (serological pipettes), razor blades, and contaminated broken glass.
- Biohazardous sharps must be disposed of in leak-proof, rigid, puncture-resistant and break-resistant sharps containers. These containers must be closed when they are 3/4 full. Sharps containers should be sealed closed and placed in the biohazard waste container.
- Pipettes and pipette tips readily puncture biohazard waste bags and must be disposed of in a rigid container (biohazard bag lined cardboard box). Lining pipette disposal box with plastic keeps residual liquids from soaking the box and seeping onto the floor/counter. Once pipette disposal boxes are full, they must be taped shut and placed into biohazard waste bin.

Additional information on biohazard waste can be found in the [UNMC Waste Handling Policy](#). **All biohazardous waste must be rendered non-infectious prior to final disposal per State law ([NDEQ Title 132](#)).**

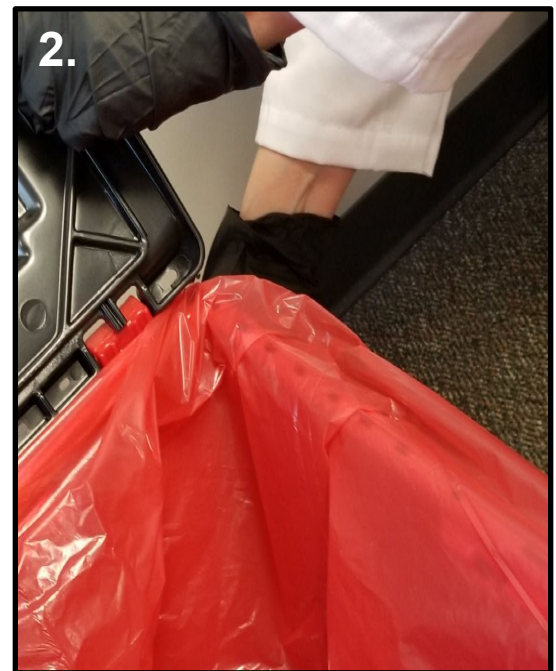
How to Install Red Bags for Biohazard Waste Containers

To properly dispose of biohazard waste, place a red biohazard bag inside the biohazard waste container.

Biohazard waste containers have a tab and notch to secure bag corners. The image on the right shows the tab circled in white, and the notch is identified with a white arrow.

Please follow the instructions below for installing red bags in biohazard waste containers.

1. Lift the lid and hook the bag over the outer corner of the container using the tab and notch.
2. Pull the edge of the bag over the remaining corners. The last corner should pull tight and secure the bag to the bin.



Disposing of Biohazard Waste

- Dispose of biohazard waste when containers are 2/3 full.
- Allow enough bag space to tie the appropriate knot to close the bag.
- Biohazard waste containers must not exceed 45 pounds.
- After the bag is properly tied and the lid is latched shut, place the container in the hallway for EVS pick up. Instructions on how to tie red bags are below.



How to Tie Red Bags

1. Gather the top of the bag and twist.
2. Make a loop, then push the bag end through the loop.
3. Pull on the bag end to tighten knot.

