
1. BI Laboratory Waste Disposal Policy – Biohazardous Waste

- a. This policy covers all waste contaminated with biohazardous substances, or bio-waste. Biological waste includes item(s) that have come into contact with biological agents/materials, anything labeled with a biohazard symbol, or any item(s) that may “appear” to be associated with biological agents/materials.
- b. For general laboratory waste, hazardous (chemical) waste, sharps (including glass) and pipette tips that are not biohazardous, refer to the [BI Laboratory Waste Disposal Policy - General and Hazardous Waste](#).
- c. Users must wear the appropriate PPE when handling laboratory waste. Refer to the [BI PPE Policy](#).
- d. Biological waste should **NOT** be disposed into regular or hazardous waste, and sorted according to the waste type (e.g. solid, liquid, etc.). If using in a BSC, ensure waste containers are inside the BSC prior to working.
- e. The appropriate chemical or method for biohazardous waste decontamination or disinfection is dependent on the biological agent and/or material. Refer to biological agent risk assessments and supporting information (e.g. SDS/PSDS).
- f. BI users should consult BI staff for any assistance with biological waste disposal.
- g. Waste disposal procedures are summarized in BI Waste Disposal Charts and located on laboratory doors. Refer to the [BI Documentation Policy](#).
- h. To dispose of biohazardous waste from non-culture laboratories, consult BI staff.

1.1. Biohazardous Waste Disposal Boxes

- a. Biohazardous solid waste must be double-bagged or double-contained and placed within a Stericycle biohazard cardboard box.
- b. BI culture laboratories house Stericycle biohazard cardboard boxes, which are double-lined, either with two yellow biohazard bags, or with a clear garbage bag and one yellow biohazard bag.

1.2. Biohazardous Waste Disposal – Solid Waste

- a. Biohazardous solid waste (“bio-waste”) should be placed into a designated solid bio-waste container that is lined with a clear plastic bag.
- a. Prior to working, line the designated solid bio-waste container with a clear plastic bag. If working in a BSC, ensure the bio-waste container is in the BSC.
- b. While working, deposit waste into the lined bio-waste container. If working in a BSC, do not continuously transfer waste in and out of the BSC; this will disrupt air flow.
- b. When finished working, or when bag is full, tie up the bag.
- c. Disinfect the outside surface of the bag with the appropriate disinfectant prior to its removal from the BSC (e.g. 70% ethanol).
- d. Place bag into double-lined Stericycle biohazardous solid waste disposal box.

- e. BSL-1 solid waste may be placed directly into a double-lined Stericycle biohazardous solid waste cardboard box.
- f. Dispose of contaminated PPE, including gloves, as biological solid waste.

1.3. Biohazardous Waste Disposal – Liquid Waste

- a. Biohazardous liquid (“bio-liquid”) waste should be placed into a designated bio-liquid waste container. Prior to working in a BSC, ensure a designated bio-liquid waste container is located inside the BSC.
- b. While working, transfer biological liquid waste into the bio-liquid waste container.
- c. Decontaminate the bio-liquid waste with the appropriate disinfectant for the appropriate amount of exposure time (e.g. 10-20% bleach for 30 minutes; refer to MSDS and/or PSDS of biological agent and/or material). If working with BSL-2 agents, decontaminate the bio-liquid waste **IN** the BSC.
- d. Decontaminate the outside of the bio-liquid waste container with the appropriate disinfectant (e.g. 70% ethanol) before moving the bio-liquid container to a sink.
- e. Pour the decontaminated liquid waste down the sink with **plenty** of water.
- f. Ensure hazardous chemicals do not go down the drain. Refer to the [BI Laboratory Waste Disposal Policy - General and Hazardous Waste Policy](#).
- g. If aspirating liquid waste, refer to the [BI Laboratory Waste Disposal Policy - Liquid Aspiration](#).

1.4. Biohazardous Waste Disposal – Pipette Tips

- a. Biohazardous plastic pipette tips are disposed of into labeled leak-proof, puncture-resistant, sealable containers. Dispose of biohazardous cell scrapers and inoculation loops as “Biohazardous Pipette Tips Waste”.
- b. Prior to working in a BSC, ensure a designated tips bio-waste container is located inside the BSC.
- c. While working, dispose of biohazardous plastic pipette tips into the appropriate container. After completing work, close the container.
- d. When the biohazard pipette tips container is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, seal the container.
- e. Disinfect the outside of the container with the appropriate disinfectant prior to its removal from a BSC (e.g. 70% ethanol).
- f. Place into a Stericycle biohazardous solid waste disposal box.
- g. Biohazardous culture laboratories will have suitable containers provided. Consult BI staff to request suitable containers.
- h. For disposal of BSL-1 waste from non-culture laboratories, consult BI staff.

1.5. Biohazardous Waste Disposal – Sharps

- a. Broken glass is considered a sharp but may be disposed of as either clean (uncontaminated) glass waste, hazardous glass waste or biohazardous glass waste. The disposal route depends on associated hazards. Consult BI staff and/or [BI Biohazardous Waste Policies](#).

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- b. Sharps including needles, syringes with needles, razor blades and scalpels are disposed into biohazardous sharps containers, which are puncture resistant, leak-proof and sealable. Refer to the BI Biohazardous Waste Policy.
 - c. Each BI laboratory should have, at minimum, one sharps container.
 - d. BI users should consult BI staff for plastic sharps container locations.
 - e. BI staff will stock BI laboratories with sharps containers as needed or requested.
 - f. Dispose of sharps into a designated sharps container. If working in a BSC, ensure a sharps container is located inside the BSC. Disinfect the outside surface of the container with the appropriate disinfectant prior to its removal from the BSC (e.g. 70% ethanol) prior to removal from BSC.
 - g. When the biohazard sharps container is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, close and/or seal, and give to BI staff for disposal.

1.6. Biohazardous Waste Disposal – Glass

- a. For uncontaminated and hazardous glass waste disposal, refer to the BI Laboratory Waste Disposal Policy - General and Hazardous Waste.
- b. Biohazardous glass waste should be disposed of as biohazardous sharps waste.

1.6.1. Biohazardous Reusable Glassware

- a. Biohazardous, reusable glassware must be decontaminated with the appropriate disinfectant for the appropriate amount of time (e.g. 10-20% bleach for 30 minutes) prior to reusing.

1.7. Biohazard Waste Disposal – Holding Room

- a. When full, or heavy (< 25 lbs), the inner bags lining the Stericycle biohazard cardboard boxes will be tied, and the box sealed. Boxes will be labeled with the generator information and date.
- b. Sealed Stericycle biohazard cardboard boxes will be transferred from culture laboratories to the BI biohazard waste holding room, ETB 430, biweekly by an authorized BI Laboratory Technician.
- c. Biweekly, the waste holding room will be emptied by qualified, authorized McMaster Biomedical Waste Pickup personnel for off-site disposal.
- d. Biohazard waste disposal is documented in the BI Biohazard Waste Storage & Disposal Log.

1.8. Biohazard Waste Documents

- a. BI Waste Disposal Chart – Biohazardous.
- b. BI Biohazard Waste Storage & Disposal Log.