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# **Safe Handling of Infectious Waste**

## **Procedure Overview**

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# Purpose and Scope

- This procedure describes methods for safely collecting, handling and disposing of infectious waste.
- This procedure applies to all University of Notre Dame personnel whose work involves infectious substances.

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# Training Requirements

- All personnel handling infectious substances shall be trained on the hazards.
- Biohazard safety training is required.
- If working with human pathogens, University authorized Bloodborne Pathogen training is required.
- The training completion documentation shall be provided to the PI or designee for record retention.

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# University Personnel Responsibilities

- University personnel (i.e., individual, researcher, department) generating infectious waste shall adhere to the requirements in this procedure.
- Periodic inspections are conducted of the PI's area(s) of responsibility, by the PI or the PI's designated personnel, verifying the requirements of this standard are being met [no documentation required].
- If deficiencies are noted during the periodic inspections immediate corrective actions are implemented (correction of the deficiency and retraining, adherence to the University's discipline process, etc.).

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# Safe Handling and Storage

- Safety goggles, gloves, and lab coat must be worn when handling infectious substances.
- Infectious substances must be collected, stored and covered in the appropriate container with the general area being maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Infectious waste storage areas must be kept secured or otherwise protected from unauthorized entry.

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# Description and Hazard Labeling

- Contaminated animal bedding must be placed in the container labeled ANIMAL BEDDING or similar wording which indicates the type of waste.
- Infectious cultures and stocks, pathological waste, and human blood products should be placed in the container labeled CULTURES, PATHOLOGICALS, BLOOD, or similar wording, which indicates the type of waste.
- Storage containers require hazard communication labeling.

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# Autoclaving or Treatment Disposal

- Infectious wastes that cannot be autoclaved or treated with bleach are sharps, sharps containers, animal carcasses and contaminated bedding.
- Infectious waste shall be rendered innocuous, if possible, through autoclaving or treatment with bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite solution) prior to discarding as regular trash.
- Any autoclaved or treated waste suitable for disposal as regular trash must be dark bagged and labeled “**Safe for Trash**” PRIOR to disposal.

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# Non-Autoclave/Treatment Disposal

- Used and unused sharps should be placed in a sharps container with a biohazard symbol. All sharps containers ready for disposal need to be completely sealed so nothing is protruding from the container and the lid and all safety tabs are fully engaged.
- Contaminated animal carcasses need to be placed in red bags, frozen and secured by tying off the bag.
- Red bags need to be tied off and have no rips in bag.
- Sharps containers, animal carcasses and contaminated bedding need PI name, department, and room number information written on the waste container for RMS to pickup.



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# Hazard Communication Labeling



Biohazard Waste Label



Biohazardous Symbol



Infectious Substance Hazard Label