









## WHAT IS CLINICAL WASTE

**Clinical waste:** Any waste consisting wholly or partly of human or animal tissue, pathogens (hazardous micro-organisms and other biological agents), genetically modified organisms, cell lines, blood or other body fluids, carcasses, excretions, drugs or other pharmaceutical products, disposable laboratory waste items, swabs or dressings, or syringes, needles or other sharp instruments. Prior to final disposal, **disinfection with an effective (liquid) disinfectant** at the effective concentration for the required time is needed for waste containing pathogens (hazardous micro-organisms and other biological agents) and genetically modified organisms (*check your local disinfection procedure*), liquid should be drained off down the laboratory sink as far as possible before disposal.

*Clinical waste includes disposable laboratory waste items with **trace hazardous chemical / solvent contamination** – e.g. contaminated gloves, pipettes, wrappings, needles, paper tissue, spreaders, loops, culture flasks, conical tubes.*

## CLINICAL WASTE DISPOSAL - WHAT GOES WHERE

Contaminated non-sharp laboratory consumables / gloves	Contaminated sharps (*if infectious)	Used pipettes (*if infectious)	Infectious / pathogenic / genetically modified micro-organisms or other biohazardous materials waste
			
<p>→ Yellow clinical waste bag (orange bags used for non-infectious animal bedding waste and yellow / black stripe bag for offensive waste – e.g. soiled nursery nappies)</p>	<p>→ sharps bin <b>Yellow lid</b> – infectious waste <b>Orange lid</b> – blood (&gt; 5% w/w) <b>Purple lid</b> – cytotoxic compound (&gt; 5% w/w)</p>	<p>→ sharps bin with yellow lid</p>	<p>→ <b>*Autoclave</b> (121°C, 15 min holding time) bags or sharp bins. → non sharp – yellow clinical waste bags → (if semi-solid / liquid) 30 litre eco-lock bin → sharps bins into larger collection bin</p>
			

### SAFE PRACTICE

- Never fill a sharps bin above the fill line – this can lead to needle stick / contamination injuries.
- If a clinical waste bag tears, then double bag it. Inform Lab Manager.
- Do not exceed **5kg** weight for any bag.
- Transport all bags and sharps bins in banded / closed trolleys to your area designated yellow collection bin for uplift by the authorised clinical waste contractor - offsite incineration.

### CLINICAL WASTE SPILL PROCEDURE

- **E**vacuate area and **I**solate (cordon off) area to all but the person designated to deal with the incident. **C**all for help if needed (e.g. lab manager).
- In case of injury, call for a first aider (your nearest or via 0207 882 **3333**).
- For blood and other infectious pathogenic clinical waste spills (where no sharps) – Use BS EN / ISO 374 standard protective gloves, add an effective disinfectant to the spill from the outside of the spill, leave for the required time, then scoop up with inert absorbent granules / material into an autoclave bag. Wear face fitted FFP3 disposable respiratory protective equipment if there is a risk of dust, droplets or aerosols.
- For spills of clinical waste containing sharps – use BS EN / ISO 388 standard protective gloves and long handled tongs/pincers to pick up needle/syringes and sharps into a sharps bin; then add disinfectant to the spill and follow steps above.
- Make sure you have disinfectant, spillage kit and inert absorbent materials to hand or available during transport or packaging of clinical waste.
- Further Information at <http://hsd.qmul.ac.uk/>