

EHS Guide: Human and Animal Tissue Disposal Options

Evaluate hazard concerns and compliance requirements in order of priority, starting with option A. Additional guidance provided at the end of this list.

A. Radiological or Chemical Contaminated Tissue and/or Fluid

- Requires disposal through EHS.
 - EHS Radiation Safety Services – 864-2851
 - EHS Biosafety Services – 864-2857
 - EHS Hazardous Materials Services – 864-2853

B. Infectious Human Tissue and/or Fluid (Not Certified Pathogen Free)

1. Human tissues and fluids are minimum BSL2 by regulation unless tested and/or certified pathogen free.
2. Collect into appropriate autoclavable biohazard containers.
3. Decontaminate via autoclave or chemical treatment.
4. **Fluids** are flushed to sanitary sewer with water after decontamination. Drain should be sterilized with chemical treatment after flushing.
5. **Tissue recognizable as human** after decontamination is disposed as medical waste to Watkins Memorial Health Center.
6. **Tissue unrecognizable as human** after decontamination is disposed to the building trash dumpster. Place autoclaved biohazard bags and impermeable sharps containers in a secondary bag or container that is not identified or labeled as a biohazard before disposal to the trash.

C. Non-Infectious Human Tissue and/or Fluid (Certified Pathogen Free)

1. Human tissues and fluids are minimum BSL2 by regulation unless tested and/or certified pathogen free.
2. Collect into appropriate containers or bags. Special biohazard containers are not required.
3. **Fluids** are flushed to sanitary sewer with water. Drain should be sterilized with chemical treatment after flushing.
4. **Tissue recognizable as human** is disposed as medical waste to Watkins Memorial Health Center.
5. **Tissue unrecognizable as human** is disposed to the building trash dumpster.

D. Medical Waste Considered Potentially Infectious (Human Tissue and/or Fluid)

1. Generally applies to waste generated from patient treatment at medical facilities.
2. Collect into appropriate autoclavable biohazard containers.
3. Autoclaving may be required. Depends on the hazards per EHS review.
4. Disposal as medical waste to Watkins Memorial Health Center may or may not be required.
5. Disposal of medical waste to Animal Care Unit is not appropriate.

E. Infectious Animal Tissue and/or Fluids (Infectious to Humans)

1. Collect into appropriate autoclavable biohazard containers required.
2. Decontaminate via autoclave or chemical treatment.
3. **Fluids** are flushed to sanitary sewer with water after decontamination. Drain should be sterilized with chemical treatment after flushing.
4. **Tissue recognizable as animal** after decontamination is disposed to Animal Care Unit per ACU instructions.
5. **Tissue unrecognizable as animal** after decontamination is disposed to the building trash dumpster. Place autoclaved biohazard bags and impermeable sharps containers in a secondary bag or container that is not identified or labeled as a biohazard before disposal to the trash.

F. Infectious Animal Tissue and/or Fluid (Infectious to Animals Only)

1. Special biohazard containers may be required, per EHS review.
2. Decontamination may be required before final disposal, per EHS review.
3. **Fluids** are flushed to sanitary sewer with water. Drain should be sterilized with chemical treatment after flushing.
4. **Tissue recognizable as animal** is disposed to Animal Care Unit per ACU instructions.
5. **Tissue unrecognizable as animal** is disposed to the building trash dumpster. Place autoclaved biohazard bags and impermeable sharps containers in a secondary bag or container that is not identified or labeled as a biohazard before disposal to the trash.

G. Non-Infectious Animal Tissue and/or Fluid

1. Special biohazard containers not required.
2. **Fluids** are flushed to sanitary sewer with water. Drain should be additionally sterilized with chemical treatment after flushing.
3. **Tissue recognizable as animal** should be disposed to Animal Care Unit per ACU instructions.
4. **Tissue unrecognizable as animal** is disposed to the building trash dumpster.

H. Additional Guidance:

- All human and animal BSL2, BSL3, Select Agent, and rDNA research protocols, including disposal protocols, require Biological Agent Risk Assessment review and approval.
- The common glass disposal boxes are considered sharps boxes for non-infectious sharps.
- Please contact the Animal Care Unit or Watkins Memorial Health Center in advance to arrange for respective delivery and disposal assistance.
- The following departments have autoclaves that may be available for use. Please contact them directly: Molecular Biosciences, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering.