

Introduction to Medical Waste Handling

Waste handling should be done according to local regulations, but here are some general instructions:

Definition

Pathological waste is defined at LBNL as any recognizable human or animal body part and tissue.

Pathological Containers

Pathological waste containers are usually red, and pre-labeled with the biohazard symbol and words 'Pathological Waste'. Pathological containers must be lined with a red biohazard bag before depositing waste.

4.2.1.3. Pathological Waste Disposal Procedures

The following section describes the procedures that must be followed when disposing of pathological waste.

Wear the appropriate PPE for handling pathological waste (e.g., lab coat, gloves, safety glasses).

Deposit the pathological waste into a biohazardous waste bag. Seal the biohazard bag closed (tape, rubber band, etc.) Red biohazard bags are to be used for pathology waste in areas where the laboratory waste is deposited into containers lined with red biohazard bags. Clear biohazard bags are to be used for pathology waste in areas where the laboratory waste is deposited into containers lined with clear biohazard bags.

Label the outside of the bag with the generator's name and extension, and the date the bag was sealed.

Store the bagged waste in a freezer. This helps to minimize odors.

The morning of Incineration, transfer the waste into a pathological waste pickup container.

Fill out the Medical Waste Accumulation Log

Wash your hands after removing your gloves.

4.2.1.4. Pathological Waste Contaminated with Radioactive Material

Pathological waste that is contaminated with radioactive material (e.g., animal carcasses labeled with tritium) is not medical waste. It is regulated as radioactive waste.

Pathology waste originating from an RMA must be below minimum detection levels for radioactivity. By signing the Medical Waste Accumulation Log, the generator is certifying that there is no detectable radioactivity in the waste. If you are unsure whether there is radioactive contamination in your medical/biohazardous waste, please contact your Radiation Control Technician.

4.1.2. Ash handling

Ash from medical or pathological waste Incineration should be collected to a closed containers in order to prevent spills. Ash has to be disposed according to local regulations. Usually, as is being analysed, by approved laboratory to check if it comply with standards for disposal as standard waste.