

UAB SAFETY SHORT


Attention Researchers who use Stericycle:

UAB received a notice that Stericycle's Autoclave Waste Processing Team has detected dangerous levels of formaldehyde in their autoclaves while processing UAB waste. Since this is dangerous to inhale, it has caused them to stop work until air quality is restored. They are seeing yellow containers inside of red bags and cardboard boxes. Yellow containers require incineration and should not be autoclaved. Stericycle utilizes yellow QR code labels to specify waste to be incinerated, compared to white stickers for normal medical waste to be autoclaved.










Pathological waste- Human or animal body parts, organs, tissues, and surgical specimen: You **MUST decant** formaldehyde, formalin, or other preservatives, as required per hazardous waste regulations. Shipping pathological waste with preservatives not only endangers Stericycle workers but also puts UAB at risk of non-compliance with hazardous shipping regulations.


It is ultimately the researcher's responsibility to ensure their laboratory waste is properly identified, packaged, and segregated.

Please use the Stericycle chart below to determine what is acceptable regulated medical waste and how it should be segregated. Contact medwaste@uab.edu for ordering Stericycle labels, requesting transport containers, and scheduling pickups.





Incineration and Regulated Medical Waste


 ACCEPTABLE REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE THAT MUST BE INCINERATED	<p>Place in Red Bag:</p> <p>Pathological Items – All human and animal tissue that complies with Stericycle's Waste Acceptance Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limbs Specimens Placentas 	Packaging	<p>Use red bags and appropriate containers to dispose waste.</p> 	Labeling	<p>Once waste is properly packaged for transport, apply YELLOW LABELS ONLY to Incineration Waste.</p> 
 ACCEPTABLE REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE INCINERATION	<p>Place in Red or Yellow Bag or Yellow Container:</p> <p>Trace Chemo Items – Items used to prepare and administer chemo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves Masks Gowns IV Tubing Empty Drug Vials Empty Intravenous Bags/Bottles Barriers <p><small>As a reminder, Bulk Chemo Waste is considered RCRA-hazardous and cannot be classified or treated as trace chemo.</small></p>	Packaging	<p>Use yellow or red bags and appropriate containers to dispose waste.</p> 	Labeling	<p>Once waste is properly packaged for transport, apply YELLOW LABELS ONLY to Incineration Waste.</p> 
 ACCEPTABLE REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE INCINERATION	<p>Place in Red Bag:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibly Bloody Gloves Visibly Bloody Plastic Tubing Visibly Contaminated PPE Saturated Gauze Saturated Bandages Blood Saturated Items Closed Disposable Sharps Containers 	Packaging	<p>Use red bags and appropriate containers to dispose waste.</p> 	Labeling	<p>Regulated Medical Waste that is not incinerated does not require special yellow labeling. Apply WHITE LABELS ONLY to waste.</p> 





DO NOT PUT THESE IN RED OR YELLOW BAG:



Medication*



Compressed Gas Cylinders



Garbage



Fixatives and Preservatives



Loose Sharps


Fluorescein


Radioactive Waste


Cauterizers


Hazardous and Chemical Waste


Batteries of Any Type