Hazardous Waste / Biohazard Waste Packaging Instructions

This sheet should be used in packaging and labeling laboratory wastes. Wastes cannot be picked up until the procedures have been followed.

Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste container must be labeled with a yellow HAZARDOUS WASTE sticker or tag, and include the accumulation start date and the exact contents of the solution / waste.

Store the waste in the designated location and provide secondary containment.

Contact Office of Health & Safety for Pick-Up: safety@gwu.edu

Biohazard Waste

Sharps - Unused needles with or without syringes, blood vials, or glass specimen containers, slide cover slips, culture dishes, medication vials used for injection, scalpel blades

Place sharps into red puncture-resistant biohazard container.

Red Bag Waste - Paper towels, plastic pipettes, animal waste, cultures and stocks, and human blood and blood products.

Place waste in a red biohazard bag.

DO NOT mix Sharps, Red Bag, or Pathological Waste in one bag or box. They must be bagged/boxed separately.

Pathological - animal and human parts
Any liquid (i.e., blood, sera, I.V. saline, etc., liquids other than chemical solutions) greater than 20 cc’s must be placed in a container that is labeled as to its contents, capped tightly, then placed directly into the red liner.

Specimens should be drained of liquid and then placed into the red liner.

1. Tie/tape the biohazard waste bag closed.
2. Place bag in cardboard biohazard box.
3. Complete 1st biohazard label and place on bag (labels available through the Office of Health & Safety)
4. Seal the cardboard box with tape on all sides.
5. Label the outside of the box with the 2nd biohazard label.

GW Office of Health & Safety safety@gwu.edu 202 994-4347