

Medical Waste

Medical Waste Regulation Act (MWRA) Part 138: Regulates the generation, storage, treatment and disposal of medical waste.

Medical Waste includes:

- Cultures and stocks of infectious agents (lab waste, discarded live and attenuated vaccines, culture dishes and related devices, biological production wastes)
- Blood and body fluids (contaminated items such as band aids/gauze that can release blood or body fluids when compressed or when dried blood or body fluids can be flaked off)
- Sharps (needles, syringes, scalpels and IV tubing with needles attached)
- Pathological waste (organs, tissues, etc.)
- Contaminated animal waste infectious to humans

Medical waste does NOT include: Pharmaceuticals unless they contain live or attenuated vaccines in which case they are considered a mixed waste.

Medical Waste Storage:

- Sharps and syringes must be stored and disposed of in rigid puncture-resistant, leak proof containers labeled with a biohazard symbol
- Other medical waste (soft waste such as band aids/gauze) can be stored and disposed of in an impervious, appropriately labeled closed bag.
- Medical waste may NOT be stored longer than 90 days before being shipped for proper disposal.

Disposal: Medical waste is transported and disposed of by a contracted and licensed medical waste disposal company that has been approved by FSU.

Sharps and syringes may NOT be thrown in the regular trash at FSU.

Students living on campus using sharps/syringes for medical reasons: Puncture resistant containers are supplied to students via the Birkam Health Center for proper storage and disposal.

Faculty, staff, commuting students and visitors using sharps for medical reasons: Are requested to properly store and dispose of their personal sharps and syringes as guided by their doctor and pharmacy.

Producing Facilities: Locations on campus that produce medical waste as part of a university operation must have a medical waste management plan and properly train their employees per the MIOSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard and the MWRA.