

Autoclaving Solid Biohazardous Waste that Will Not Puncture the Skin

Standard Operating Procedure

Revision Date: 08/16/23

Use this procedure for solid biohazardous waste that will **not** puncture the skin.

NOTE: This waste stream **must** be treated within 60 days of the accumulation start date.

Examples of this Waste Stream



- Plastic
- Syringes without needles
- Petri dishes
- Culture flasks
- Gloves


When NOT to Use this Procedure

- When this waste stream contains standing liquids
- If the waste stream is:
 - Sharps, then follow the procedure [Preparing Biohazardous Sharps Waste for Collection](#)
 - Biohazardous animal bedding, then follow the procedure [Preparing Pathological Waste for Collection](#)
 - Mixed with chemicals, then refer to the document [Helpful Hints for Preparing Chemical Waste for Collection](#)

Supplies Available through a Vendor

Departments are responsible for purchasing the following supplies:

- Autoclave bags (example: Fisher Scientific part number 01-826A)
- Secondary containers

SUPPLY	DESCRIPTION
	<p>The autoclave bag must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be transparent• Have the BIOHAZARD symbol printed on it• Have an indicator that changes color when the appropriate temperature is reached
Secondary Container	<p>A secondary container is needed to contain liquids that leak from the autoclave bag during sterilization. Use a polypropylene or stainless steel container for this purpose.</p>

Procedure: Autoclaving Solid Biohazardous Waste that will Not Puncture the Skin

1. Place the waste in a U-M approved autoclave bag.
WARNING: Avoid over packing autoclave bags.
2. Loosely secure the bag and containers in the bag to allow steam to penetrate the waste.
3. Place autoclave bag in a secondary container.
4. Load the autoclave.
5. Start the autoclave process.
6. After the sterilization cycle, close and seal the bag for disposal.
7. Does Custodial Services dispose of the bag?
 - If YES, then put the bag in the designated area of the lab for collection.
 - If NO, then put the bag in the dumpster.