

# Autoclaving Solid Biohazardous Waste that May Puncture the Skin

## Standard Operating Procedure

Revision Date: 08/16/23

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Use this procedure for solid biohazardous waste that may puncture the skin.

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

### *Examples of This Waste Stream*



- Pipettes
- Petri dishes
- Culture flasks
- Slides
- Bottles

### *When NOT to Use*

When this waste stream is mixed with 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](#)

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## Supplies Available through Environment, Health & Safety

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Environment, Health & Safety provides the following supplies:

SUPPLY	DESCRIPTION	CALL OR EMAIL FOR SUPPLIES
	The "BIOHAZARD" symbol <b>must</b> be on the waste containers.	(734) 763-4568
	This waste stream <b>must</b> be labeled as "UNCONTAMINATED GLASS AND PLASTICS" prior to disposal as normal trash.	(734) 763-4568 or complete the online Waste and Supply form

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## Secondary Container

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When autoclaving, a secondary container is needed. Use a polypropylene or stainless steel tray for this purpose.

**NOTE:** Departments are responsible for purchasing secondary containers, which are available through a lab supply vendor.

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## Procedure: Autoclaving Solid Biohazardous Waste that May Puncture the Skin

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1. Place the waste in a secondary container.
2. Load the autoclave.
3. Select the appropriate cycle for waste processing.
4. When waste cycle is complete. Allow time for materials to cool and package the autoclaved waste in a cardboard box.
5. Put the Uncontaminated Glass and Plastics label on the outside of the cardboard box.  
**NOTE:** If you do not have a label, then write on the outside of the box "Uncontaminated glass and plastic."
6. Does Building Services dispose of the box?
  - If YES, then put the box in the designated area of the lab for collection.
  - If NO, then put the box in the appropriate dumpster for general waste collection.