

CDPH Compliant Medical Waste Practices

Biohazard Bags:

- Must be **red** in color and labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word “biohazard”.
- Must always be in a compliant secondary container.
- Must be intact with no waste penetrating out of the bag.
- Must be tied shut so that none of the contents can fall out of the bag under any circumstance.
- *Outermost bag in the Stericycle offsite transport container must be labeled as passing both ASTM 1709 and ASTM 1922 standards.*

Secondary Containers:

- Must be composed of a smooth, nonporous material that is easily decontaminated.
- Must have a tight-fitting lid that is secured shut when waste is not actively being generated.
- Must be rigid, puncture- and leak-proof.
- Must be labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word “biohazard” on the lid and all visible sides.
- Must always be equipped with a compliant biohazard bag that properly fits within the secondary container.
- Must not be overfilled.
- Must undergo routine decontamination.
- Must never have items placed on top of it.

Biohazardous Sharps Waste Container:

- Must be labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word “biohazard” on at least one side of the container.
- Must contain only biohazardous sharps waste, no mixed waste (e.g. regular trash, chemical waste, radiation waste, etc.).
- Must never be overfilled, i.e. cannot have any waste present above the “fill line”.
- Must be completely intact, no cracks or broken lids.
- If repurposing biohazardous sharps container for non-hazardous sharps collection you must completely deface the biohazard label.
- Must never be lined with a biohazard bag.

Medical Waste Transport:

- Medical waste must always be transported to an accumulation site in a compliant secondary container. Never hand carry a red biohazard bag.
- Transport container must be a rigid, lidded, labeled container that is composed of nonporous materials and is readily decontaminated.
- Transport containers must be sanitized prior to exiting the lab and entering public hallways.
- Medical waste must never be left unattended in public spaces.
- Solid biohazardous waste must be taken to a medical waste accumulation site within 7 days from the initial time of generation.
- Filled biohazardous sharps containers must be taken to a medical waste accumulation site within 30 days of reaching the fill line.

Accumulation Sites:

- Room must be locked and accessible only to those who are trained on biohazardous materials and have a legitimate business need (e.g. medical waste generators, medical waste haulers, and accumulation site manager).
- Room postings including biohazard label and signage with contact information for the site manager must be current and legible.
- Post the "caution" statement (both in English and Spanish) provided by the CA Medical Waste Management Act (this text can be found in the UC Davis Medical Waste Management Plan Checklist [template](#)).
- The area must be clean and free of pests.
- All waste in the accumulation receptacle must be in medical waste bags or medical waste sharps containers (as appropriate); no uncontained waste is permitted in the receptacles.
- All waste receptacles in used must be sealed shut with a tight-fitting lid.
- *Outermost bag in the Stericycle offsite transport container must be labeled as passing both ASTM 1709 and ASTM 1922 standards.*