INFECTIOUS WASTE DISPOSAL FLOWCHART

Does the waste contain any radioactive materials (e.g., ^{14}C, ^{51}C, ^{125}I, ^{32}P, ^{33}P, ^{35}S, ^{3}H)?

YES → **Dispose as RADIOACTIVE waste. Contact the Radiation Safety Officer for more information.**

NO ↓

Does the waste contain any hazardous chemicals (e.g., formaldehyde, ethidium bromide, polyacrylamide) or items with hazardous characteristics (e.g. ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic)?

YES → **Dispose as CHEMICAL waste. Contact the Hazardous Waste Coordinator for more information.**

NO ↓

Does the waste contain medical sharps (e.g., hypodermic needles, syringe with needle, Pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades)?

NO ↓

Does the waste contain non-medical sharps that have been in contact with infectious material (e.g., plastic pipette tips contaminated with human blood)?

YES → **Follow these procedures for the proper disposal of medical/infectious sharps:**

1. Waste must be collected in a puncture-resistant sharps container labeled with the biohazard symbol or appropriately color-coded.
2. When 3/4 full, place the sharps container into a red biohazard bag.
3. Dispose of the biohazard bags into a biological burn box that has been lined with a second biohazard bag.

NO ↓

Does the waste contain non-contaminated, non-medical sharps (e.g., plastic pipette tips, microscope slides, cover slips, applicator sticks)?

YES → **Follow these procedures for the proper disposal of non-medical sharps:**

1. Collect non-medical sharps in a puncture-resistant container (e.g. coffee can).
2. Close and seal the container when it is 3/4 full.
3. Label the container, "Sharp Objects Inside - Use Caution When Handling."
4. Dispose of container in the trash.

NO ↓

Does the waste contain infectious human material (e.g., human blood, human blood products, human tissues, human cell lines)?

NO ↓

Does the waste contain small animal carcasses (<5 lbs*), tissues or organs that have been contaminated with infectious organisms, used in the production of biologicals, or used in the testing of pharmaceuticals? (*Call the Animal Resources Office with questions about how to dispose of large animal carcasses.)

NO ↓

Does the waste contain cultures of infectious organisms, genetically altered living organisms, live or attenuated vaccines, or recombinant DNA organisms?

NO ↓

Does the waste contain infectious or potentially infectious organisms, devices contaminated with infectious organisms, or equipment contaminated with infectious organisms?

YES → **Follow these procedures for the proper treatment and disposal of infectious waste:**

1. Collect the infectious waste in a clear, unlabeled, high strength polymer autoclave bag (imprinted with a process indicator if possible).

2. Remove all biohazard labels. Ensure that words like “pathogenic,” “infectious” or “biohazardous” have been removed from all materials and equipment.

3. Autoclave the waste in a spore-tested autoclave at the approved temperature for the appropriate time.

4. Allow the waste to cool.

5. Place the autoclave bag into a black polypropylene trash bag. Ensure that the contents do not puncture the trash bags.

6. Put the bag into a second black polypropylene trash bag.

7. Place the bags in an approved location (e.g., locked dumpster).

8. Contact the hazardous waste coordinator for more information.

NO → **Trash disposal is permitted!**