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Biomedical Waste Disposal Guidance

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Biomedical Waste Disposal Guidance

Biomedical waste is regulated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT). This summary includes the most pertinent information from these rules, University of Maine Policy, and our waste disposal company policies.

1. Always **wear gloves** and **wash hands** afterwards.
2. **Solid biomedical waste** should be collected in red bags designed for this purpose, clearly labeled with the "Biohazard" symbol. When full, the bag should be sealed, autoclaved, and packaged in double lined biomedical waste disposal boxes.

If biomedical waste is stored in receptacles, they must be labeled and stored in such a manner that the waste will not be inadvertently removed as ordinary trash.

3. Needles, pipets, and any other "sharps" should not be placed directly in the red plastic bag, but rather into a cardboard or hard plastic container; after sealing, the "sharps container" can be placed in the red plastic biohazard waste bag.
4. **Liquid** cultures of bacteria, viruses, etc. can be inactivated with autoclaving, disinfectant, or Clorox treatment, and then poured down the sink drain.
5. **Biomedical waste** must be packaged in **double lined *Medical Waste* boxes**. When full, the liners must be wrapped and tied to provide a leak resistant seal. The boxes should be sealed by taping along all six seams and labeled as follows:

UMaine:

NAME: University of Maine (207) 581-4055
ADDRESS: UMS Safety Management ID# 1391
DATE PACKAGED: _____

If your department does not have regular pickups or space becomes a problem, call UMS Safety Management (SM) at 581-4055 to arrange for a pickup.

Darling Marine Center:

NAME: University of Maine (207) 581-4055
ADDRESS: Darling Marine Center ID# 2611
DATE PACKAGED: _____

Contact the DMC Safety Coordinator for Disposal.

All personnel handling biomedical waste **must be trained** in accordance with the University of Maine Biomedical Waste Management Plan.

For more Info contact: Biological Safety Officer (581-4055)
UMS Safety Management
5784 York Village, Bldg 7
Orono, ME 04469-5784