

# Biohazardous Waste Disposal Contacts & Practice Tips (Biowaste, LLC)

## Who to contact for assistance with biohazardous waste pick up assistance

### Contact Plant Operations SIS if/when:

- You need to schedule an “upon request” pickup.
- Supplies of containers/lids/bags are running low or
- You need an unusual number of containers (i.e. freezer cleanout).
- You have issues directly related to the biowaste pick up service.

**3-WORK (3-9675) or 4-WORK (4-9675) - on campus only**  
**615-343-9675 - off campus**

### Contact Robin Trundy (or OCRS Biosafety) if/when:

- You need advice/assistance regarding collection and disposal of any biohazardous waste.
- You have training questions related to regulated medical waste.
- There are spills or exposures involving biowaste or biological materials.

**615-322-0927 or 615-322-2057**

### Contact your department’s or institute’s designated representative if/when:

- Service-related issues that are not being effectively addressed through communications with Plant Operations SIS;
- Waste pick up does not occur during regularly scheduled pickup day;
- A new lab or pickup location needs added or a current pickup location needs changed;
- Pickup frequency or day needs to be permanently changed.

<p><b>Mass Spectrometry Contact</b>  <b>Amanda Renick-Beech</b>  <b>615-343-9207</b></p>	<p><b>CBD/VBI Contact</b>  <b>Anuj Rastogi</b>  <b>618-303-7503 (cell)</b>  <b>615-343-6863 (office)</b></p>	<p><b>CSB Contact</b>  <b>Arina Hadziselimovic</b>  <b>615-936-5686</b></p>	<p><b>Arts &amp; Sciences</b>  <b>Aaron Covey</b>  <b>615-343-6545</b></p>
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### TIP 1: Authorized signer availability during scheduled pickup time

The BioWaste LLC representative must collect a signature on the shipping manifest before they can remove the waste. Only personnel who have successfully completed DOT training for regulated medical waste should be signing. Whenever possible, plan to have a trained, authorized signer available in the lab during the regularly scheduled pickup time.

BioWaste LLC will be provided with a list of currently trained RMW signers. If you need to update that list due to changes in personnel, please contact Richard DiTullio ([Richard.ditullio@vumc.org](mailto:Richard.ditullio@vumc.org)) with the needed updates.

### TIP 2: Acceptance criteria for incoming BioWaste LLC containers

The BioWaste LLC representative should be providing you with the rectangular red model of shipping container shown here. Verify that all containers are in good condition before accepting them.

**If you see any of the following conditions, retrieve a new container from the autoclave rooms and report the problem to your contact**

- Containers with visible cracks
- Containers or lids visibly dirty
- Containers lacking at least one legible biohazard symbol/markings.



### **TIP 3: Disposal of sharps containers**

BioWaste LLC will accept securely closed sharps containers for disposal.

- Smaller, benchtop sharps container can fit inside your BioWaste LLC container. Simply place the permanently closed sharps container inside the lined container like any other biohazardous waste.
- Larger, floor model sharps containers (typically 20 gallons or up) will not fit in the BioWaste LLC containers, but they can be disposed of through this group if they have a DOT marking like shown to the right. To dispose of these containers:
  - Verify that the lid is permanently closed and reinforced with packing tape
  - Place the container next to your BioWaste LLC containers that are packed and awaiting pickup.

If you have a large, floor model sharps container for disposal that does NOT have a DOT marking, please contact Robin Trundy for assistance.



**Containers meeting DOT requirements as stand-alone shipping containers will have a marking like shown above in the blue box.**

### **TIP 4: Liquids in BioWaste LLC containers**

Free-flowing liquids or containers of bulk liquids should not be placed in BioWaste LLC containers. Bulk liquids should be treated with disinfectant and disposed of via the sanitary sewer as outlined in the [OCRS Biohazardous Waste Disposal Guide](#). Lab process containers (i.e., cell culture flasks, sample tubes) that contain residual liquids should be closed before placement in the BioWaste LLC container.

### **TIP 5: Disposal of tissues and carcasses, including research fish**

Remember that vertebrate animal or human tissues/organs (other than incidental residues) used in research or teaching should not be disposed of in your lab BioWaste LLC container. Alternatives for disposal include:

- Animal tissues/organs from animals used on animal protocols can be disposed of through the Division of Animal Care (DAC) animal holding facility of origin.
- Fish carcasses should be disposed of in the VEHS freezers as detailed in the [Research Fish Disposal Policy](#).
- Unused human tissue obtained through a clinical area should be returned to that clinical source if at all possible.

Contact Robin Trundy of OCRS Biosafety (322-2057) for coordination of disposal of animal tissues/organs obtained from markets or slaughterhouses. Also contact Robin for assistance with any tissue waste disposal need not specifically addressed here.

### **TIP 6: Disposal of research insects**

Research insects, such as fruit flies or mosquitoes, can be placed in BioWaste LLC containers for final disposal. However, the insects must be rendered nonviable, for example by freezing overnight, before they are placed in BioWaste LLC containers. Please see the [Research Insect Disposal Policy](#) for more information.