How do I dispose of my biohazardous waste?

Biohazardous wastes are

- Items contaminated with liquid or semi-liquid human blood or other potentially infectious materials that would release human blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed
- Items that are caked with dried human blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling
- Contaminated sharps, and pathological and microbiological wastes containing human blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- Infectious agents or hazardous biological materials that present a risk or potential risk to the health of humans, animals to the environment. Includes certain types of recombinant DNA; organisms and viruses infectious to humans, animals or plants (e.g. parasites, viruses, bacteria, fungi, prions, rickettsia); and biologically active agents (i.e. toxins, allergens, venoms) that may cause disease in other living organisms or cause significant impact to the environment or community.

1. Use the right containers:
   a. Sharps (needles, syringes, razor blades) must go in puncture-proof containers, and sealed before pick-up. Bags are NOT acceptable because sharps can penetrate and injure/infect employees! Proper sharps containers are:
      - made of a heavy-duty plastic;
      - able to close with a tight-fitting, puncture-resistant lid, without sharps being able to come out;
      - upright and stable during use;
      - leak-resistant; and
      - properly labeled to warn of hazardous waste inside the container.
      Risk and Safety Office has previously received sharps in the classic sharps containers, “Gatorade-style” bottles, liquid laundry soap containers, coffee cans (with the lids taped down well). All of these containers will work to contain sharps!
   b. All other biohazard waste (human blood soaked paper, bandages, gauze, rags, etc.) Should be placed in biohazard red bags and tied tightly with a knot at the top.
   c. Autoclaved/sterilized bags can go into the trash, but must be placed into a standard trash bag first so that no biohazard symbols can be seen. Please tie the bags securely with a knot.

2. Don’t over-fill waste containers: Bags and other containers should not be filled to the point that they rupture or are difficult to tie. When a container is full, a new one should be started.

3. Label all containers with the orange biohazard symbol and the word “Biohazard”

4. Request a waste pickup: if you do not have a procedure for sterilizing your own biohazardous waste, request a pick up on-line at [http://www.uwyo.edu/serverreports/HazPickUp.aspx](http://www.uwyo.edu/serverreports/HazPickUp.aspx) or call the RMMC at 766-3697. Information on the kind of waste, how many containers and location should be provided. All waste should be ready when the crew arrives. Tight schedules don’t always allow them time to wait if the waste is not properly prepared.