

How do I dispose of animal blood & tissues?



Risk Management and Safety Office

"How do I...?" Guide

Is animal blood biohazardous?

- *Animal blood and tissue from healthy animals not known to be infected with a pathogen is not considered a biohazard.*
- *Animal blood or tissues that are considered biohazards contain 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.*

How do I dispose of biohazardous materials?

- *Biohazardous animal tissues and blood must be treated before disposal. See "[How do I dispose of my biohazardous waste?](#)"*

How do I dispose of non-biohazardous animal blood and tissues?

- *Tissues: Non biohazardous animal tissues and carcasses are usually incinerated at the generating facility or special arrangements can be made with the City of Laramie Solid Waste 307-721-5279.*
- *Blood: Non biohazardous animal blood disposal:*
 1. **Use the right method:**
 - a. Animal blood and other body fluids can go down the drain if the pH is between 5 and 9 and there are no other hazardous materials in the fluid.
 - b. Animal blood and fluids can be absorbed in paper towels or other absorbents until fully contained, then placed into a bag. The bag must be securely sealed and lab personnel must bring the container to the dumpster.
 - c. Sharps (needles, syringes, razor blades) must go in non-breakable hard sided containers such as corrugated cardboard boxes or puncture-proof plastic sharps containers. Label the container as containing sharps. The containers must be securely sealed and lab personnel must bring the container to the dumpster. Custodial personnel are not to handle sharps containers.
 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. **No Leakage!** If needed, use more absorbent.
 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> or call the RMMC at 766-2637. 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.