

Non-regulated Biohazardous Waste Procedures

Proper Treating & Disposal of Non-regulated Biohazardous Waste (Clear/White Bag) as Defined by Arkansas Department of Health

*Note: This does **NOT** apply to those who generate Regulated Biohazardous Waste (Red Bag).*

Non-regulated Biohazardous Waste (clear/white bag) generators must use state and federally approved methods for treatment and disposal of this type of waste. If laboratory waste does not fit the definitions of Regulated Biohazardous Waste (red bag) according to the Arkansas Department of Health, but the waste is still biological in nature, clear/white autoclavable bags (with or without biohazard symbols/wording) must be used for managing this type of waste in accordance with the Arkansas Department of Health Guidelines.

Clear/white bag waste is to be treated using one of the approved methods below:

Steam Sterilization (preferred)

- Must be autoclaved with enough space in the bag and autoclave for steam to penetrate materials
- Autoclave cycle must be at 121°C under 15 psi pressure for at least 30 minutes
 - The larger the quantity of waste, the longer duration of the cycle for proper sterilization**
- Bags being autoclaved must have either an indicator area on the bag or use a piece of indicator tape placed across the biohazard symbol/wording (if applicable) to show that contents have undergone sterilization
- Autoclaves used to sterilize waste must be tested monthly using a bioindicator to ensure sterilization efficiency (Check with your department about this if you are using a shared autoclave)
 - Monthly spore testing using *Bacillus* (previously known as *Geobacillus*) *stearothermophilus* is highly recommended to ensure the autoclave is inactivating biological agents**

Disinfection (if an autoclave is unavailable)

- Must use a bleach solution of no less than 10% to fully coat/soak waste materials
- Bleach solution must be allowed full contact with materials so as to fully cover/penetrate all materials for at least 10 minutes
 - The larger the quantity of waste, the longer the contact time for proper disinfection**
- Excess bleach solution must be allowed to drain from treated materials and the excess bleach solution is to be subsequently disposed of as hazardous chemical waste

Treated clear bag waste should then have the ENHS-provided white sticker label applied (over any remaining biohazard symbol/wording, if applicable, but **not** to cover the indicator tape) to indicate the waste has been treated and is non-hazardous. One label per bag is sufficient. Filling out the sticker label information accurately is necessary. Treated and labeled clear bag waste should be packaged over with an opaque bag such as a typical black garbage bag. Treated, labeled, and over packaged clear bag waste can be deposited in the normal solid waste stream (dumpsters) as per state and federal guidelines.

DO NOT purchase red or orange-red bags for disposal in the dumpsters! You must avoid bags with red or orange-red coloring when sourcing bags for non-regulated biohazardous waste management. The only bags that are acceptable for dumpster disposal are clear or white in color. Please refer to the [Guidelines for Sourcing Clear bags for Non-Regulated Biohazardous Waste](#) when purchasing clear bags!

For more information, please contact campus Biological Safety Officer [Brooke Howard-Parker](#).