



## Syracuse University Environmental Health and Safety Services Medical Waste Generator Guidance Document

This guidance document is prepared to assist regulated medical waste (RMW) generators in properly managing their RMW. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation defines RMW as “waste generated in diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human, or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in production and testing of biologicals; provided, however, that RMW does not include hazardous (chemical) waste”. RMW and hazardous chemical waste are two different waste streams and must be managed and collected differently. Environmental Health and Safety Services (EHSS) collects RMW from generator locations all across Campus. It is imperative that RMW generators segregate RMW from normal trash and hazardous waste and properly managed it prior to collection by EHSS.

### Materials managed as regulated medical waste include, but are not limited to...

- Human blood and blood products
- Human, animal and plant pathogens
- All hypodermic needles
- Animals/animal wastes used in research
- Biological cultures or stocks of infectious agents
- Biologically contaminated sharps and syringes
- Biologically contaminated gloves, petri dishes, pipettes, spill clean-up material, etc.
- Any other waste material with infectious agents

### Materials NOT managed as regulated medical waste include...

- RCRA hazardous chemical waste (solvents, flammable solids etc.)
- Empty pipette and Kimwipe boxes
- Soil or plant material
- Bandages, gauzes, cotton swaps unless saturated with infectious materials
- Drug Enforcement Administration regulated pharmaceutical waste
- Animal bedding/litter/food (unless contaminated with a chemotherapeutic or infectious material)
- Non-research animal waste (i.e. dead wildlife)




### Transgenic organism and rDNA wastes...

- Wastes containing transgenic organism or rDNA molecules must be physically or chemically deactivated prior to disposal, even if the waste is not a RMW. If the waste also contains another hazard (i.e. hazardous chemical, toxic protein) contact EHSS for assistance in disposing of this waste.

### Regulated medical waste management procedures...

- Wear appropriate gloves and safety glasses when handling RMW.
- Contact EHSS to obtain a properly labeled, double bagged RMW box.
- Keep the RMW box near the point of generation.
- Do not dispose of liquid RMW directly into a RMW box. Liquid RMW should be deactivated following the instructions provided in this guidance document and disposed of through the sanitary sewer.
- Dispose of RMW which also contains a Hazardous Chemical Waste as a hazardous waste.
- Adhere to the RMW Management Instructions provided in the following table.

# Medical Waste Generator Guidance Document

RMW WASTE TYPE	EXAMPLES	MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS
<p><b>RMW - SHARPS</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypodermic Needles</li> <li>• Biologically Contaminated Syringes</li> <li>• Biologically Contaminated Sharps (i.e. any items sharp enough to puncture skin)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard into a red sharps container that is leak-proof, and puncture-resistant.</li> <li>• RMW generators are responsible for purchasing sharps containers.</li> <li>• Place full, and sealed sharps container into a RMW box.</li> <li>• Contact EHSS for removal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RMW - BIOLOGICAL LIQUID WASTE</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Blood and Blood Products</li> <li>• Biological Culture Media</li> <li>• Infectious Liquids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect biological liquid waste in a leak proof contained (i.e. flask)</li> <li>• Deactivate the biological agent by adding household bleach (10% of final volume of the waste should be bleach).</li> <li>• Let stand for 30 minutes.</li> <li>• Discard deactivated liquid biological waste to the sanitary sewer (i.e. sink drain) and flush with water.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RMW - GENERAL</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Animals/Animal Tissue Waste</li> <li>• Human, Animal and Plant Pathogens</li> <li>• Biologically Contaminated Gloves and Spill Clean-up Material</li> <li>• Petri Dishes, Pipettes, Culture Flasks, etc. used with Biological Materials</li> <li>• Animal Bedding Contaminated with Infectious Material or Chemotherapeutics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain a RMW box from EHSS.</li> <li>• Verify RMW box is labeled "Biohazard" and doubled bagged.</li> <li>• Place non-liquid RWM into the RMW box.</li> <li>• Store RMW box near where the RMW is being generated.</li> <li>• The quantity of RMW must not exceed 50 lbs. (22.7 kg) per box.</li> <li>• Contact EHSS for removal.</li> </ul>

## Contact EHSS if ....

- RMW boxes or bags are full.
- New or more RMW boxes or bags are needed.
- A RMW box or bag is torn or show signs of leaking
- You have specific questions or require further assistance.

Contact EHSS at 315-443-4132 or submit a Request for Service at: <http://ehss.syr.edu/about/request-for-service>