

BIOMEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

Biomedical waste is regulated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT). This summary includes the most pertinent information from these rules, University of Maine Policy, and our waste disposal company policies.

- 1) Always **wear gloves** and **wash hands** afterwards.
- 2) **Solid biomedical waste** should be collected in red bags designed for this purpose, clearly labeled with the "Biohazard" symbol. When full, the bag should be sealed, autoclaved if possible, and packaged in double lined biomedical waste container.

If biomedical waste is stored in receptacles, they must be labeled and stored in such a manner that the waste will not be inadvertently removed as ordinary trash.

- 3) Needles, pipets, and any other "**sharps**" should not be placed directly in the red plastic bag, but rather into a cardboard or hard plastic container; after sealing, the "sharps container" can be placed in the red plastic biohazard waste bag.
- 4) **Liquid** cultures of bacteria, viruses, etc. can be inactivated with autoclaving, disinfectant, or Clorox treatment, and then poured down the sink drain.
- 5) **Biomedical waste** must be packaged in double lined *Medical Waste boxes*. When full, the liners must be wrapped and tied to provide a leak resistant seal. The boxes should be sealed by taping along all six seams and labeled as follows:

NAME The University of Maine (207) 581-4055
ADDRESS Safety & Env. Mgt. ID# 1391
DATE PACKAGED _____.

If your department does not have regular pickups or space becomes a problem, call SEM at 581-4055 to arrange for a pickup.

All personnel handling biomedical waste **must be trained** in accordance with The University of Maine Biomedical Waste Management Plan (MP11190).

For more Info contact: Biological Safety Officer (581-4055)
 Department of Safety & Environmental Management
 5784 York Village, Bldg 7, Orono, ME 04469-5784