

**U n i v e r s i t y o f C a l i f o r n i a**  
 Office  
 of  
**Environmental Health and Safety**  
**Biological Safety Update**  
**S a n F r a n c i s c o**

### Recommended Laboratory Medical Waste Containers

During a recent San Francisco Department of Public Health medical waste inspection, the health department identified several laboratories not using the approved containers for medical waste. Red colored containers and lids are strongly recommended, but are not strictly required by the law. All containers and associated lids must have biohazard labels regardless of size and color. OEHS&S recommends the following to ensure compliance with the California Medical Waste management regulations.

For transporting large quantities of medical waste OEHS&S recommends a red 32-gallon Rubbermaid "Brute" container . The container dolly fastens to the bottom of the container for easy transport. These barrels also come in 10, 20, 32, 44, & 55 gal sizes. Note drum dolly does not fit the 10 gal. size container . The following are pictures of acceptable containers:



- 32 gal red barrel: LSS#: 2629-1R
- Red lid (required): LSS#: 2629-2R
- 20 gal gray barrel: LSS#: 2630-1GR
- Gray lid (required): LSS#: 2630-2GR
- 10 gal gray barrel: LSS#: 13682-1GR
- Gray lid (required): LSS#: 13682-2GR
- Dolly: LSS#: 126911

For Stationary laboratory containers:

OEHS&S recommends the use of 8 gallon & 12 gallon size Rubbermaid step-on waste containers. The lids do not come off and close automatically. The following are pictures of acceptable containers:



- 8 gallon red LSS#: 22022R
- 12 gallon red LSS#: 22023R



"Biohazard step-on container" in 6, 10, and 14 gallon sizes.

- 6 gallon LSS#: 29190
- 10 gallon LSS#: 44331
- 14 gallon LSS#: 26578



For accumulation of large pipettes, containers such as Nalgene Pipet Jar may be used. Ensure jar comes with lid when ordering. Label all sides with biohazard labels.

- For Pipets up to: 8 in. L (20cm); Diameter x Height: 6.5 x 9 in. Fisher Catalog # 15350110BB
- For Pipets up to: 16 in. L (41cm); Diameter x Height: 6.5 x 20.25 in. Fisher Catalog # 15350110A
- For Pipets up to: 24 in. L (61cm); Diameter x Height: 6.5 x 27 in. Fisher Catalog # 15350110B

For bench top accumulation (including biosafety cabinet) potential options include the Nalgene and Mitchell Plastics containers pictured below:

Nalgene waste container  
(may be too large for some applications) 1.5 gallon LSS#: 136841



Mitchell Plastics Biohazard Waste Containers (flip-top lids allowed) in several sizes:

Waste Container Med Bench top: Fisher Catalog # 05723424

Waste Box Hold Bench top: Fisher Catalog # 05723425

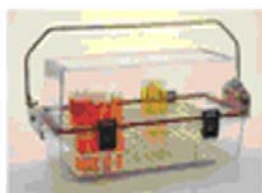
The most economical option is to recycle empty plastic or metal containers with tight fitting lids. The one example (pictured on the right) with a purple lid is a GladWare® container that you can buy from any supermarket. Biohazard red bags must fit container and allow for the lid to seal the container tightly.



NOTE: Wire frames for bench top (or any other) medical waste bags are not legal in California. Also, containers with swing lid are not acceptable. All red bag waste must be in hard sided containers with fitted lids **at all times**.

For transporting biohazardous materials (not waste):

A transport (outermost) container that seals and latches similar to the following is recommended. This type of container is available from most lab suppliers. Small picnic coolers are also good for transporting biological materials, for details refer to Appendix K of the biosafety manual.



Bio Transport Carrier: LSS#: 141106

Bio Transport Carrier Handle: LSS#: 141107

For questions, please contact your Department Safety Advisor. Thank you.

*Please forward to all lab members. Print and keep a copy for future reference.*