



Autoclaving Biological Waste

State and Federal regulations require proper control of biowaste during accumulation and treatment before disposal. These guidelines assist you in the safe management of your biowaste.

1 Waste Containers

- Waste is to be collected in leak-proof containers. Bags with the universal biohazard symbol must be used to collect solid waste. If you steam-sterilize your waste, make sure your bags are autoclavable.
- Other than benchtop collection, biohazard bags must be contained in a solid, leak-proof container with a lid capable of decontamination.
- The container must be marked with the biohazard symbol.
- Always wear your PPE!. Don't forget the thermal gloves!

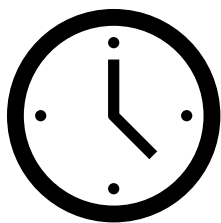


2a Preparing Waste for the Autoclave



- Prep waste to allow steam circulation (i.e., loosely tie bags, loosen lids or loosely cover with foil). Apply autoclave tape.
- If you have to transport waste through common areas, use a closable tub w/ locking lid; take the autoclave tub(s) with you.
- At the autoclave, place waste in a leak-proof, autoclavable tub. Do not overload the tub.

2b Autoclaving and Final Disposal



- Autoclave waste no less than 30 minutes at 121°C and 15psi pressure.
- After autoclaving, Record the run in the log, carefully remove the load, and affix a "treated" sticker to biobags.
- Place the biobag in a black trash bag.
- Lab personnel can then discard waste in the dumpster.

Remember:

- Record treatment in the log.

- Conditions of treatment
- Name and initials of person treating the waste.
- Date of treatment.
- Amount of waste treated (pounds/liters).
- Written procedure used.

Biowaste Treatment Log - Autoclave					
DATE		PRINTED NAME	INITIALS	QTY (lbs. or L) OF WASTE	COMMENTS
MM/DD/YYYY					



- Wear heat-resistant gloves with your standard PPE.
- When opening door after the run, stand back and allow steam to escape.



This poster and other resources are available on our website!

www.ehs.ttu.edu