

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Animal Waste Disposal

The management of biohazardous waste is administered by TCU Environmental Management and Safety (EMS) in accordance with State of Texas regulations and TCU policy developed in consultation with the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). It is the responsibility of each researcher/departments to properly dispose of any biohazardous waste that is generated as a result of research, teaching and other activities.

These guidelines have been developed to assist in that responsibility. They address the most common general categories of biohazardous wastes and are not intended to be all-inclusive or to supersede any alternate waste management procedures specified in research protocols as approved by the IBC. If you have questions contact TCU Environmental Management and Safety at ext. 5395 or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at iacuc@tcu.edu.

I. Purpose. Waste products, including autoclaved waste, must be removed from the facility and disposed of to ensure a sanitary workplace and to prevent the contamination of work areas with waste materials.

II. Responsibility. Researchers and staff must remove waste from the animal facility in an efficient and safe manner. Staff must avoid contaminating other areas of the facility while disposing of waste materials.

III. Procedure

A. Disposal Requests. All disposal requests should be submitted to labwaste@tcu.edu.

B. Animal carcasses. Animal carcasses to be removed that are not otherwise preserved must be placed in freezers to prepare for transport. Animal carcasses that are preserved do not need to be frozen. All carcasses must be placed in **2x clear plastic bag** prior to being placed in the freezer or stored. Double nitrile gloves, non-slip shoes and gowns/scrubs/disposable coveralls must be worn during carcass transport and disposal. (Note: EMS will place the carcasses in the appropriately colored bag, when necessary, at the time of pickup).

C. Sharps. Used syringes or other sharps must be disposed of in sharps containers. Do not attempt to place caps back onto used syringes before disposal. Please note that sharps containers are only for the disposal of sharps. Excess chemicals or containers may not be placed within the sharps container.

- D. Cage labelling and bedding disposal.** Non-hazardous bedding where animals have not been administered chemical or biological agents should be collected, and placed in a dumpster for disposal.

Once a chemical or biological agent is administered to an animal, a cage card must be filled out with the agent name and each date of dose administration. A dissolvable biohazard (orange) or chemical hazard (yellow) sticker must be placed on the cage, respectively.

If a Particular Hazardous Substance, as defined by OSHA, is being administered, contact EMS for proper PPE requirements. See procedures below for biological and chemical bedding disposal.

- E. Bedding with chemical waste.** Cage cards will be filled in with agent name and date of dose administration. Cages will be returned to dirty side cage wash and the contents of the cage disposed of in the following manner.

1. A powered air purifying respirator must be worn when dumping cages. Double nitrile gloves, non-slip shoes and gowns/scrubs/disposable coveralls also must be worn.
2. Bedding must be dumped into a waste bag using a scraper.
3. The waste bag must be placed into a 5-6 gallon screw top pail, and then sealed. The pail must be labeled with the chemical agent's name.
4. EMS will then dispose of the pail through the hazardous waste vendor when a request is received.
5. The clean cage into which the animals are transferred to is labeled with the accompanying cage card and with a yellow dissolvable sticker which indicates the date of the change-out.

- F. Bedding with biological waste.** Cage cards will be filled in with agent name and date of dose administration. Cages will be returned to dirty side cage wash and the contents of the cage is disposed of in the following manner.

1. A powered air purifying respirator must be worn when dumping cages. Double nitrile gloves, non-slip shoes and gowns/scrubs/disposable coveralls must also be worn.
2. Bedding must be dumped into a red biohazard waste bag using a scraper.
3. Biohazard bags will be tied, and the outside will be sprayed with appropriate sterilant or disinfectant. The bag will be disposed of in a marked biohazard box.
4. EMS will then dispose of the biohazard box through the biomedical waste vendor when a request is received.
5. The clean cage into which the animals are transferred to is labeled with the accompanying cage card and with an orange dissolvable sticker.

- G. Facilities without cage wash capabilities.** Cage cards will be filled in with agent name and date of dose administration.

1. Double nitrile gloves, lab coat, face mask and eye protection will be worn during cage decontamination.

2. All procedures performed during cage decontamination will take place in a designated location.
3. Bedding must be dumped into a red biohazard waste bag using a scraper.
4. The empty cage(s) will be sprayed, inside and out, with sterilant or disinfectant and components will remain soaked with sterilant or disinfectant for a minimum of 10 minutes. After contact time has transpired, all cage components will be stacked and placed in a red biohazard bag and made ready for transport.
5. Biohazard bags will be tied, and the outside will be sprayed with sterilant or disinfectant. The bag will be disposed of in a marked biohazard box.
6. EMS will then dispose of the biohazard box through the biomedical waste vendor when a request is received.
7. The clean cage into which the animals are transferred to is labeled with the accompanying cage card and with an orange dissolvable sticker.