

# CDPH Compliant Medical Waste Practices

## Biohazard Bags:

- Must be **red** in color and labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word “biohazard.”
- Must always be in a compliant secondary container.
- Must be intact with no waste penetrating out of the bag.
- Must be tied shut so that none of the contents can fall out of the bag under any circumstance.
- Outermost bag in Stericycle offsite transport container must be labeled as passing both ASTM 1709 and ASTM 1922 standards.

## Secondary Containers:

- Must be composed of a smooth, nonporous material that is easily decontaminated.
- Must have a tight-fitting lid that is secured shut when waste is not actively being generated.
- Must be rigid, puncture- and leak-proof.
- Must be labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word “biohazard” on the lid and all visible sides.
- Must always be equipped with a compliant biohazard bag that properly fits within the secondary container.
- Must not be overfilled.
- Must undergo routine decontamination.
- Should never have items placed on top of it.

## Biohazardous Sharps Waste Container:

- Must be labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word “biohazard” on one side of the container.
- Must contain only biohazardous sharps waste, no mixed waste (e.g. regular trash, chemical waste, radiation waste, etc.).
- Must never be overfilled, i.e. cannot have any waste present above the “fill line.”
- Must be completely intact, no cracks or broken lids.
- If repurposing biohazardous sharps container for non-hazardous sharps collection you must completely deface the biohazard label.
- Must never be lined with a biohazard bag.

## Medical Waste Transport:

- Medical waste must always be transported to an accumulation site in a compliant

secondary container. Never hand carry a red biohazard bag.

- Transport container must be a rigid, lidded, labeled container that is composed of nonporous materials and is readily decontaminated.
- Transport containers must be sanitized prior to exiting the lab and entering public hallways.
- Medical waste must never be left unattended in public spaces.
- Solid biohazardous waste must be taken to a medical waste accumulation site within 7 days from the initial time of generation.
- Filled biohazardous sharps containers must be taken to a medical waste accumulation site within 30 days.

### **Accumulation Sites:**

- Room must be locked and accessible only to those who are trained on biohazardous materials and have a legitimate business need (e.g. medical waste generators, medical waste haulers, and accumulation site manager).
- Room postings including biohazard label and signage with contact information for the site manager must be current and legible.
- Post the "caution" statement (both in English and Spanish) provided by the CA Medical Waste Management Act.
- The area must be clean and free of pests.
- All waste in the accumulation receptacle must be in medical waste bags or medical waste sharps containers (as appropriate); no uncontained waste is permitted in the receptacles.
- All waste receptacles in use must be sealed shut with a tight-fitting lid.
- Outermost bag in Stericycle offsite transport container must be labeled as passing both ASTM 1709 and ASTM 1922 standards.