

## VCHA – VGH site - Research Laboratory Waste Management Guide

This is a condensed version of the Waste Management Plan available on the VCH intranet, which outlines the procedures for the disposal of various waste materials. Any Questions regarding waste management should be directed to Regional Environmental Management Department at 604-875-4615.

Type	Definition / Examples	Disposal
General	Coffee cups, hand towels, tissue paper, gloves, cellophane	Black garbage bags
Glass	Glass not containing biomedical waste	Black bag in cardboard box – labelled glass and sealed before it leaves
<b>Biomedical</b>		
1. Human blood and body fluids contaminated with blood	Items saturated or dripping with blood or body fluids contaminated with blood. Does not include urine or feces. <b>Examples:</b> bloody tubing and bags, syringes with blood, hemovacs, pleurevacs and gauze or drapes saturated to the point of dripping with blood.	Yellow bags
2. Anatomical	Human or animal tissue, organs or body parts. Does not include teeth, hair or nails.	Red bags or pails - make arrangements at 54615
3. Microbiology Laboratory waste	Cultures, stock or specimens of microorganisms, live or attenuated vaccines, human or animal cell cultures	Autoclave bags –autoclaved then put in yellow bags.
4. Sharps	Needles, syringes, glass contaminated with other biomedical waste, etc.	Yellow sharps container - include department name and sealed before it leaves department
5. Cytotoxic	Antineoplastics or chemotherapy agents	White pails with Green Cyto label. Must be sealed
6. Pharmaceuticals	Unused or outdated drugs	Return to pharmacy
<b>Recycling</b>		
1. Confidential paper	Any items with patient's first and last name on it; addressographed material, nursing notes, operating room slates, admission labels, medication pack labels, etc.	Confidential Paper bins
2. Confidential non-paper material	Other confidential information requiring special disposal, example: CDs, addressograph cards, videotapes, etc.	Please contact the Environmental Management Department for assistance.
3. Confidential – med bags	Patient labels on IV bags	Yellow bag – will be shredded
4. Cardboard	Corrugated cardboard – please flatten boxes prior to disposal	For pick up by Housekeeping
5. Mixed paper pack & newspapers	Any non-confidential paper including newspapers, magazines, journals, coloured paper, tissue boxes, glove boxes, envelopes	Designated Bin with clear bag liner
6. Beverage Containers	All beverage containers – glass, metal, plastic, tetrapak - except dairy containers	Beverage Recycling bin or on patient's tray
7. Other	Phone books, ink cartridges	Call transportation at 62729
8. Other	Batteries	Battery box – when box full or if there is no battery box - contact transportation at 62729
<b>Special Wastes</b>		
Chemicals	Any chemical that is ignitable, corrosive, toxic, flammable, reactive, or genotoxic. Must not contain biomedical or radioactive waste.	Keep sealed in original container. If chemical waste, keep sealed in an approved designated container such as a black pail or red jerry can with label stating as much information as possible: full technical name, volume, percentage, etc. DO NOT MIX chemicals together. Please contact the Regional Environmental Department for assistance 604-875-4615.
Radioactive waste	Any waste emitting radiation	Contact Radiation Safety Officer

Due to health and safety of workers handling waste, procedures, labeling and packaging requirements are strictly enforced. If wastes are not prepared as specified, VCHA reserves the right to refuse collection.

**Revised Sept 2006**