

VCH – 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	Put in black garbage bag & seal, then put in a cardboard box & seal it – label box “glass” and write lab name & contact phone # on box, then put in hallway for p/u
Biomedical		
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. Examples: 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 –autoclave then put in yellow bags.
4. Sharps	Needles, syringes, glass contaminated with other biomedical waste, etc.	Yellow sharps container Seal container, write lab name & contact phone # on container. Place in hallway for pick-up
5. Cytotoxic	Antineoplastics or chemotherapy agents	White pails with Green Cyto label. Must be sealed
6. Pharmaceuticals	Unused or outdated drugs	Return to pharmacy
Recycling		
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 VCH Research Institute for assistance 54372
3. Confidential – med bags	Patient labels on IV bags	Yellow bag – will be shredded
4. Cardboard	Corrugated cardboard – please flatten boxes prior to disposal	Place in hallway 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. Batteries	Batteries	Battery box – battery boxes located at JBRC 2 nd floor mail area, RHHN 7 th floor, RP mailroom 100.
Special Wastes		
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 604-875-4080.
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, VCH reserves the right to refuse collection.

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