

# REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE (RMW) (Update)

There have been some misconceptions regarding the appropriate handling of regulated medical waste, which need to be addressed:

## 1) RMW is NOT to be stored in the Molecular Biology Core area.

(It is a violation of DEC regulations to store RMW in a high-traffic area such as the core.)

- Each lab that generates RMW is responsible for the handling of their own RMW.
- Each lab must deliver their own RMW to Science III, B20 for secondary packaging and disposal. *Please call Bob Snyder at 7-4905 before delivering your RMW for disposal.*
  - ✓ RMW must ALWAYS be transported (and “stored”) in rigid, “biohazard”-labeled containers with tight-fitting lids.
  - ✓ All RMW bags must be labeled with your name and campus location.
  - ✓ **NO DRIPPING, LEAKY BAGS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

## 2) RMW does NOT need to be autoclaved.\*

- BSL-2 bacterial cultures may be autoclaved as a courtesy to the RMW handler, but should be re-bagged in clean biohazard bags (so as not to leak) before transporting for disposal.

## 3) Only materials that come in CONTACT with infectious agents are considered RMW.\*

- Gloves and other materials that DO NOT actually come in CONTACT with cultures and other infectious agents are not RMW and can be disposed of as normal waste.

*\*Please note that the last 2 items are different than what is indicated in the current “Guidelines for the Handling and Disposal of Regulated Medical Waste.” The guidelines are in the process of being revised and will be redistributed upon completion. In the meantime, please follow the above guidelines.*

For questions, please contact:

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