



May 2004

**REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE (RMW)**

Recently, there has been some confusion over the definition of RMW and disposal of RMW. It is important to understand the definition of RMW but also, to understand that in some cases, certain materials may be perceived by the community to pose a risk even if there is none. For this reason, NYU may require some materials to be handled as RMW even if it does not strictly meet the definition as stated below. If you have any questions please contact Environmental Services.

RMW are all materials or agents that can be infectious. This includes but is not limited to:

- Cultures & stocks of infectious agents, and associated biologicals including serums, vaccines, antigens, and antioxins;
- Human pathological waste (tissue, organs, body parts & body fluids);
- Blood or blood products, items saturated or caked with blood, & their containers;
- Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, & bedding of animals known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research or production of biologicals/pharmaceuticals.;
- Any personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, etc.) or other waste that has been in contact with any of these materials. Labs generating RMW should consider all gloves RMW.

**SHARPS:**

- Needles, syringes, & scalpels (regardless of whether they are used or contaminated);
- Any sharp object (broken glass, glass tubes, slides, pasteur pipettes, etc.) that could puncture or scrape the skin **and** which was used in work involving infectious agents.

**STORAGE & DISPOSAL**

RMW containers shall be leak-proof, have lids and remain closed except when adding waste.

- If the cardboard biohazard disposal boxes are used they must be lined with two red liners. The outer liner must have the generator location and address preprinted on the outside.
- If the reusable plastic biohazard disposal containers are used (e.g., at the Dental Center), only one red liner, with the generator location and address, is required.
- If smaller collection containers are used in labs, they must be lined with at least one red liner. When full, the inner liner shall be sealed and placed in a lined disposal box or reusable plastic disposal containers. When transporting to the larger disposal box or containers, use a labeled plastic container to carry the sealed inner liners.

When a box is ready for disposal, the inner liner(s) must be taped shut first, and then do the same for the outer liner. Finally, the box must also be closed and sealed with packing tape. To avoid rupture, do not overfill the containers. A container is considered full at 90% capacity. Contact your building manager to arrange for in-laboratory pickup of the sealed boxes.

**REMEMBER:**

- RMW boxes must **not** be left unattended in hallways awaiting pick-up.
- All persons should be aware of the hazards of all materials with which they work.

**CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION WASTE**

Once again, the end of the academic year marks the beginning of the construction and renovation season. A demolition or renovation waste is waste that is left behind prior to renovation or is produced due to renovation of an area that has the potential to be hazardous to human health or the environment. For more information on specific disposal requirements, please go to:

<http://www.nyu.edu/environmental.services/pdfs/newsletters/may-2003.pdf>

**PREVENTING MOLD GROWTH**

It's important to understand how to prevent **potential** mold growth. Moisture control is the most effective way in preventing mold growth. For more information please refer to the May 2003 Quarterly Newsletter:

<http://www.nyu.edu/environmental.services/pdfs/newsletters/may-2003.pdf>

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**UPCOMING TRAINING**

The following is a list of upcoming training for the remainder of the academic year:

- May 28 – **Haz Waste for Laboratories**  
Silver 408, 11-11:45AM
- May 28 – **Chem. Hygiene/Lab Safety**  
Silver 408, 12 – 1:00PM
- June 11 – **Respiratory Protection**  
Silver 408, 8-9AM, 11-12PM, 2-3PM
- June 25 – **Haz Waste for Facilities**  
Silver 408, 11-11:45AM
- June 25 – **Hazard Communication**  
Silver 408, 12-1:00PM
- July 30 – **Non-Ionizing Radiation**  
Silver 408, 12-1:00PM
- July 30 – **Haz Waste for Laboratories**  
Silver 408, 11-11:30AM
- Aug 27 – **Haz Waste for Facilities**  
Silver 408, 11-11:30AM

If you have any questions regarding training, please call our office at x81450.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES NEW EMAIL ACCOUNT**

We are pleased to introduce our new email address: [environmental.services@nyu.edu](mailto:environmental.services@nyu.edu).

We encourage everyone to use this address to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. All emails will be addressed by someone within our department in a timely manner.

**VACATING LABS/LAB CLEANOUTS**

This is a reminder to notify ES in the event of a lab's relocation or chemical cleanout. We have been receiving a number of requests this year and it is much easier to schedule in advance. For detailed information, please visit the address below:

<http://www.nyu.edu/environmental.services/labwaste.shtml#labcleanouts>