

HOW TO PREPARE A BIOWASTE/PATH WASTE BOX FOR TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL

Please note that bio/path boxes need to meet both DOT and RIDEM shipping regulations since they'll be travelling on highways when taken for disposal. If the company accepts a box that is out of compliance and they get pulled over for a routine inspection or there's an accident, the company will face some hefty fines, so boxes that are not properly prepared will NOT be picked up by our waste vendor.

In order to avoid this, there's a few simple things to take into consideration when packing your boxes. Here is a bullet list for quick review, but you can also refer to our more detailed [Regulated Medical Waste SOP](#) for further clarity if needed.

1. Box is first assembled so that when packed, the signage is right-side up and arrows point to the ceiling.
2. Only clear packing tape is used. Not lab tape, masking tape, duct tape, etc. Clear packing tape only.
3. Box flaps are folded flat, like an Amazon box. Flaps are NOT folded alternately like a moving box.
4. Boxes are lined with 1-2 red bags that are TIED before sealing the box.
5. PI's name is written on the box. This will (a) let me notify them if a box needs to be repacked and (b) if there's an accident on the highway, we can find out what was in the box.
6. Any "fresh" animal carcasses (rodents, shellfish, etc.) that haven't been preserved in a fixative need to be frozen and have those boxes packed and put out NO LATER THAN 8 AM THE MORNING OF PICKUP. The room shouldn't stink from the waste.
7. Any boxes containing path waste (carcasses, organs, etc.) need to be labeled as "Anatomical/Pathological Waste" and "Incinerate Only". These stickers are in the waste room.
8. If you DO have Pathological Waste, please let us know by filling out the [Pick-up Request](#) on the EH&S page. The pick-up driver has been getting here earlier and earlier, so we want to double check he took THESE boxes when he did his stops. He stops at our office for signatures on his way off campus, so we can double check his inventory if we're expecting path boxes.
9. The Pick-up Request link should be used not only for pathological waste (always) but also if you have bio/medical waste to be picked up in buildings that do not have a waste room (Fogarty, Independence Way, Mackal, Beaupre, Peckham Farm, etc.).
10. Don't be "that person" who doesn't order replacement supplies when needed. Use the Pick-up Request link to also order boxes, bags, labels, tape and plastic totes when supplies are getting low.