



## Waste: What to do with Sharps

Attention UGA Researchers:

As you are aware, the Office of Biosafety does not pick up and/or dispose of sharps from common areas or laboratories on the UGA campus. It is up to departments or individual laboratories to set up their own sharps removal program. Accounts must be set up with a reputable sharps medical waste carrier.

The Office of Biosafety does not endorse any singular sharps medical waste carrier. Currently, Stericycle is utilized on campus for both large and small sharps disposal needs. For programs that do not generate large amounts of sharps waste, there are other companies that offer reasonably priced "mail back sharps disposal systems". Please be sure to research your chosen carrier (products and procedures) to ensure that all federal and state laws are being adhered to for the shipment of regulated sharps waste.

Under Georgia's Medical Waste Disposal Regulations, Biomedical waste is defined in [391-3-4-.15 Biomedical Waste. Amended](#). Be aware that most "mail back sharps disposal systems" are designed for "Medical Waste". Because definitions of "Medical Waste" and "Biomedical Waste" may vary from state to state, UGA Office of Biosafety is making certain requirements and recommendations regarding the shipment of sharps. UGA Office of Biosafety requires at all times that all sharps from BSL-3 labs be autoclaved prior to removal from the BSL-3 laboratory. The Office of Biosafety recommends that sharps from BSL-2 labs that could potentially be contaminated with a Risk Group 2 biological agent and/or may not meet other states definition of "Medical Waste" be autoclaved prior to removal from the facility. As a laboratory, it is your responsibility to always fully understand the status/conditions of your sharps and to be sure the person(s) and/or company handling your sharps for disposal also understands that status.

If you have any questions regarding sharps removal or need any assistance, please contact the Office of Biosafety at [biosfty@uga.edu](mailto:biosfty@uga.edu). For issues requiring immediate assistance call 706.542.5300.