

Cell & Tissue Analysis Core (CTAC) Hazardous/Biohazardous Waste Policies

[Effective: October 1st, 2017]

The following waste policies were developed in conjunction with UF's Division of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS). Please contact the EHS Research Services group at 392-1591 if you have additional questions about research waste.

Biohazardous Waste:

CTAC will provide small biohazard bags you may use to collect your waste, but you must then remove them to your home lab after each visit. Do not leave your biowaste in the room under any circumstances. For transporting your waste, bring an opaque plastic container (with a lid and biohazard label) large enough to carry your waste (including your PPE) safely back to your lab. Sterilite makes a wide variety of totes/containers that are perfect for this purpose. They are inexpensive and are readily available at Wal-mart, Target, or on Amazon.

Empty "popcorn" mouse tubs are to be treated as biohazardous waste and are to be removed to your lab along with the rest of your biohazard waste.

We will continue to supply sharps boxes, but do not place non-sharps waste into the sharps boxes under any circumstances.

What goes into the sharps box:

- Uncapped syringes or needles (syringes should not be recapped)
- Broken slides or cover-slips
- Razor, scalpel, microtome, or cryostat blades
- Broken glass

What **does not** go into the sharps box:

- Syringe wrappers or syringe caps
- Non-sharps biohazard materials
- Paper
- Empty blade cases
- Pipette tips
- Intact slides
- Chemical or pharmaceutical waste

Isoflurane & Charcoal Canisters:

The old policy for filling the isoflurane tank was that everyone was required to leave the tank full when they were finished using the system. Since many people were not following this policy and leaving the tank empty for the next user, we will now be implementing a new policy. You now need to fill the tank when you start with as much isoflurane as you need to complete your project. You do not need to fill the tank when you are finished.

Make sure that you bring enough isoflurane with you to be able to complete your experiment; do not expect that the previous user has left any isoflurane in the tank. Finally, please make certain that you do not run the tank dry.

[Continued] Isoflurane & Charcoal Canisters:

Please also note:

- Any Isoflurane bottles or charcoal canisters that are brought into the CTAC facility are to have the lab PI's name written on them in ink.
- Do not leave Isoflurane bottles in the room under any circumstances. Isoflurane is a prescription substance to be used only under the control of a PI and his/her designees; it is not to be left lying around unattended.
- Do not leave empty Isoflurane bottles in the room (or in the trash). Take empty isoflurane bottles back to your lab and dispose of them properly as "clean labware for disposal".

Do not put isoflurane bottles or charcoal canisters into biohazard waste. This is an EPA/FDEP violation and isoflurane fumes are volatile; you do not want put these items into an autoclave.

Do not leave charcoal canisters in the room. Partially exposed (or full) charcoal canisters must be sealed in a plastic bag and removed from the room back to your lab.

PPE:

Disposable PPE from other facilities may not be worn into the CTAC facility. If you wish to wear PPE in the CTAC facility you must bring new PPE (new from your lab, not from other animal facilities) with you and put it on here.

When you are finished, remove it and take your used PPE with you for disposal in your lab (only chemically contaminated PPE must be discarded in the room as chemical waste). Do not dispose of PPE in our trash.

Gloves (whether "clean" or not) do not go into the regular trash under any circumstances. These are considered to be biohazard waste, or if chemically-contaminated, chemical waste.

Full coverage shoes are appropriate for CTAC facilities. A lab coat and safety glasses are required when there is a possibility of splash or splatter with hazardous materials or chemicals (e.g. in the CTAC Histology Core).

Chemical Waste:

CTAC facility staff will provide chemical waste containers for the chemical waste streams typically generated in the in vivo room (LG-180D) and Histology Core (L3-192).

It is imperative that:

- You discuss the types of chemicals to be used in your experiments with CTAC staff *well in advance* so the correct waste containers can be made available.
- All chemical waste must go in the correct container and the container be re-closed after you add waste.
- If you generate chemical waste for which there is no container (e.g. an atypical waste, or a container not available), contact CTAC staff immediately.
- You do not put chemical or pharmaceutical waste into biowaste bags or sharps containers and never down the sink drain.

Storage:

As you will see when you come to use the new in-vivo imaging room, the new space is much smaller. We do not have room to store your supplies between visits. Please take all of your reagents/supplies with you when you leave. Supplies left in the room may be used by other users, or even thrown out.