Proper Waste Management

Waste management includes the proper handling and disposal of waste material. To meet federal guidelines designed to keep the environment safe, University of Miami must adhere to specific requirements for the disposal of biohazard, regular trash, recycling, and confidential waste.

Some waste stream, such as biohazard, must be transported differently and stored separately from regular garbage. It is also more expensive to dispose of than everyday trash, so it's important to place only the required items into the various containers, bins and bags.

Every colleague plays an essential role in the success of our waste management program. It is important to familiarize yourself with the waste disposal information provided and follow the guidelines which explain which containers, bins and bags should be used for every kind of waste.



Waste Management

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Recycle Bins	Confidential Paper Bin	Red Bags	Clear Bags	Sharps Containers	Blue Bags Linen	Yellow Bin
 Plastic (Example: sterile and non-sterile water bottles, clean basins) Metal (Example: soda and soup cans, aluminum foil) Glass Non-Confidential Paper (Example: newspapers, magazines, folders) No food items or material with food residue should be placed in these bins. Also, no Styrofoam, gloves or plastic film. Recyclable material needs to be clean. 	All paper that contains: Protected Health Information Confidential colleague or confidential business-related material.	 Items, (with the exception of linen, reusable medical devices and sharp objects) that are soaked or saturated with blood and/or other bodily fluids*, such as blood components, cerebrospinal, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial fluids, semen or vaginal secretions, amniotic and synovial fluids. Any container with bulk blood or bodily fluids Bloody suction canisters Hemovac, pleurovac or wound drains Blood transfusion tubing and bag Chest tubs * Feces, urine, vomit, sputum, sweat and tears are not disposed of in red bags unless there are visible signs of blood. They can be disposed of in the hopper or clear bag. Make sure there is no dripping of medical waste while transporting red bags to the dirty utility room. Use smaller red bags to contain and transport medical waste from point of generation (patient room or bedside) to a centralized red container. 	Use clear or regular trash bags to dispose of items with no visible blood and/or bodily fluids, including: Dressings Gloves Drapes Disposable gowns Paper towels Food waste and packaging Sterile wrappers Isolation gowns — unless soaked and saturated Diapers Foley catheters and Foley bags with no visible blood Feces, urine, vomit, sputum, sweat and tears with no visible signs of blood IV bags (empty)	Needles Disposable instruments Syringes with or without a needle Guide wires Scalpels Lancets Skin staples Broken or unbroken glass contaminated with blood or bodily fluid Trocars	All linen Linen should not be thrown away, as it can be laundered.	Chemical waste requires separate handling. Yellow bins should be used for chemo disposal with no residue.

RECYCLE at UM with Green 1: 4 simple rules



- 1- Make sure you ALWAYS use a green bag for the blue recycling bins
- 2- If you see something wrong (too much loose plastic, too much food, liquid in the blue bins), report it immediately to your manager



3- ALWAYS put the Green bags in the Recycling compactor



4- ALWAYS put the Cardboard in the Cardboard Only compactor

