



Standard Operating Procedure: Disposal of Hazardous Waste

Document History

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1. Background

This document outlines the procedure for destroying tissue/ samples after they are no longer required or consent to retain the samples has been withdrawn. When disposing of human tissue samples reference should be made to **HTA code E** for research tissue, and adherence to rules governing separation of tissue samples from the living and post-mortem tissue must always be obeyed.

2. Procedure

- Residual tissue / samples left after research projects have finished should be sent back to the biorepository if they are deemed still useful and not contaminated in any way.
- If it is agreed that the tissue/ sample should be destroyed, they will be disposed of in accordance with the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust Clinical waste disposal policy described below.
- In all cases a Sample disposal record should be completed and filed

I. Unfixed Tissue specimens

These should be fixed in 10% buffered formalin prior to disposal. Once fixed proceed as per Fixed samples.

II. Fixed specimens

The fixative should be drained off prior to disposal by pouring down the sink with copious amounts of water then the lid returned to the container (if glass containers, then the tissue should be placed in a plastic bag and sealed) and placed in a Yellow omnium with a BLUE lid. (INCINERATION). The omnium should only have been used for post mortem tissue

Do not fill above the designated fill line.

III. Paraffin wax embedded blocks

Blocks should be placed in a Yellow bin with an ORANGE lid. (TREATMENT). The bin should only have been used for post mortem tissue

Do not fill above the designated fill line

IV. Contaminated sharps and tissue sections on glass slides

These should be placed in a sharps bin with an ORANGE lid (TREATMENT). The bin should only have been used for post mortem tissue Do not fill above the designated fill line

V. Blood, Serum & Urine samples

The containers should be resealed where appropriate and then placed in a Yellow omnium with a ORANGE lid or Yellow sharps bin with ORANGE lid (TREATMENT).

The bin should only have been used for tissue from living donors. Note that separate disposal routes should **always be used** for post-mortem tissues.

3. Associated Documents

	Document	Document Reference
1	Sample disposal record	BIO:FORM:06
2	STH Waste Policy	BIO:POLICY:13
3	School Waste Policy	BIO:POLICY:05
4	Sample disposal Sugical/ Volunteers	BIO:SOP:06