

Review, Evaluation, and Disposition of **Unknown** Biological Materials

You found a container(s) with **Unidentified Biological Contents** (writing/label unrecognizable)



Follow this protocol and make Yale a Safer Place!

start here

1. Gather information from your research group, former members, and collaborators



2. Is this Likely containing **Radioactive Material** (e.g. labeled)?



Yes

See reverse page

No

3. Is this Likely containing ONE of the **High Risk Biological Materials (HRBs)**?

HRBs:

- A Select Agent
- A known risk group 2, 3, 4 human pathogen
- A Restricted Substance (animal or plant pathogen requiring a permit)
- A biotoxin with LD50<100ug/kg body weight
- A high risk nucleic acid molecule
- A Prion

Yes

PI has a strong reason to keep the material in lab?

Yes

PI reasonably certain identification will be done with some additional effort?

Yes

Identify, inventory, and register with EHS all **HRBs**. Contact your **Safety Advisor** for assistance.

No

No

- Document the unknown with available details,
- Put the sample in a red bucket with enough pads at the bottom to contain liquid
- Pack the bucket into a Stericycle box/bag unit
- Attach "Incinerate" or "Pathological" label outside the unit, and request for pickup.
- Document "Disposed through Stericycle" with date and name.



No

Follow instructions on the reverse page.



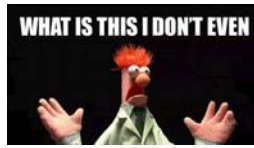
Still Have Questions?



Or Call EHS at 203-785-3550

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We deal with the Unknowns according to Likely **Risk Priorities** and **Separate Waste Streams**.

2. Is this Likely containing **Radioactive Material** (e.g. labeled)?



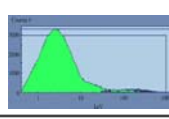
Yes → GM reading higher than background?



Yes → Find out historical info. Contact your **Safety Advisor** for proper disposal

No

LSC sampling above background?



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No

4. Is this Likely a **Pathological sample** (human and animal tissue)?



Yes

Separate from chemical preservatives

Pathological Waste

Chemical Waste

NO

5. Is this Likely a **Chemical reagent** or part of a kit?



Yes

Put in a closed container, label as "Hazardous Waste - Unknown (or chemical name if known)" and request for chemical waste pickup.

No

6. Is this Likely a blood sample, body fluid, serum, or a large volume of cell/bacteria/viral stock (**Liquid waste**)?



Yes

Add bleach solution to 10%, ensuring adequate head space in the container, mix and let stand for 30min, then drain dispose. For plates or vial/tube samples, aspirate into a container with bleach.

No

7. **Low Risk Biomedical Waste**

Put in Yale's Biomedical waste box/bag unit, seal, label with room and date, and put the box into the metal cart at collection site.



Still Have Questions?

