

The following table consists of disposal guidelines and requirements for various items found at the University of Florida Health Physicians Clinics. Acceptable methods for disposal are in **green**. Non-acceptable methods are in **red**. Alternative methods are in **yellow**. Additionally, when mentioned below, BMW stands for Biomedical Waste.

Item	Regular Trash	BMW	Sharps
Food, wrappers, paper/plastic food service items, drink cans, jars & bottles	OK – best option is to remove tops, rinse and recycle.	NEVER	NEVER
Office paper, records, junk mail	OK – best option is to recycle	NEVER	NEVER
Paper towels from hand washing	ALWAYS	NEVER	NEVER
Dirty diapers, Kleenex, tampons, sanitary napkins	YES – items are not considered to be BMW, Wrap or bag for general sanitary considerations.	ONLY if saturated with blood. Please use discretion.	NEVER
Sterile wrappers and packaging	YES – Unless contaminated with bodily fluid(s)	ONLY if contaminated with bodily fluid (s).	NO – needlesticks may occur if you try to stuff a soft item in a sharps box.
Non-contaminated gloves	YES	NO	NO – needlesticks may occur if you try to stuff a soft item in a sharps box.
Contaminated gloves	NO	YES	NO – needlesticks may occur if you try to stuff a soft item in a sharps box.
Blood, urine, cultures or body fluids	NEVER – these are always considered contaminated liquids.	YES – anything contaminated is BMW.	NEVER
All needles	NEVER	NEVER	ALWAYS
Scalpels, biopsy punches, needles, and other non-reusable surgical instruments	NEVER	NEVER	ALWAYS
Full sharps containers	NEVER	YES – Ensure that cover is locked. Place into a lined BMW box.	YES
Chemo Waste	NEVER – must go into special chemo container.	NEVER – must go into special chemo container.	NEVER – must go into special chemo container.
Outdated or expired drug products	NO – must be handled as chemical waste.	NO – must be handled as chemical waste.	NO – must be handled as chemical waste.
Use band-aids and wound dressings	YES – unless saturated and dripping with blood.	ONLY if saturated with blood.	NO – needlesticks may occur if you try to stuff a soft item in a sharps box.
IV bag/tubing (new or used)	YES – unless contaminated by blood. Remove all sharps.	ONLY if contaminated with blood.	ONLY the sharp portion Use red-bag for contaminated tubing.
Wooden or plastic Q-tips, probes, spatulas, pap smear brushed, etc.	NO – may poke through the bag. Handle as a “sharp”.	NO – may poke through the bag. Handle as a “Sharp”.	YES – these must go into a sharps box.
Lab Glass and broken glass containers	YES – if not contaminated. Place in cardboard box to avoid injury.	ONLY if contaminated. Place in cardboard box to avoid injury.	OK – only if in small places. Use forceps to pick up. Do not force into sharps box.
Exam table paper	YES – unless contaminated with blood or bodily fluid(s).	ONLY if contaminated with bodily fluid(s)	NEVER