

Louisiana State University

Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)

PPE Disposal Quick Guide

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Policy Reference: Biological Waste Management

General Rule

All used personal protective equipment (PPE) — including gloves, lab coats or coveralls, shoe covers, and facial masks — must be disposed of in a biohazard waste container. This applies to all research, animal, or laboratory support areas, regardless of whether hazardous materials were handled.

Consistent disposal prevents confusion for custodial staff and ensures compliance with LSU biosafety policy.

Dispose PPE in Biohazard Waste If:

- You are working in a lab, procedure room, or animal area.
- PPE has contacted any surfaces, equipment, or materials in a research or diagnostic space.
- You are cleaning or performing maintenance within a biological or animal facility.
- You are unsure whether contamination occurred — when in doubt, use biohazard waste.

Regular Trash (Only When All of the Following Are True)

- You are in office or administrative areas only.
- The gloves or PPE were never worn in a lab, animal room, or support space.
- PPE was used solely for clean administrative or clerical tasks.

Biohazard Waste Handling

- Red bags labeled with the biohazard symbol must be used.
- Do not overfill bags or sharps containers.
- Seal bags securely and place and store in secondary containment until autoclaving or in designated biohazard collection boxes for EHS pickup.

For additional information, refer to the LSU IBC Charter and Policies – Policy on Biological Waste Management, or contact:

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