



The University of Mississippi

Health and Safety

200 Old Power Plant

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TO : **Animal Researchers, Natural Products Center**

FROM : **Edward M. Movitz, Health & Safety Officer**
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DATE : **October 30, 2002**

SUBJECT : **Uncontaminated Animal Bedding**

Health and Safety provides biweekly services for the removal and disposal of infectious, medical, pathological and animal wastes.

Medical wastes include

any waste materials generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, tissues, organs, specimens of body fluids, and, Human blood and blood products.

The definition of medical waste specifically includes animal carcasses, animal body parts, and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research or the production of biological materials.

Recently, we have noticed a marked increase in the amount of "medical waste" removed from your area. Data indicates that the weight of materials has steadily increased (>120%) in the last six months when compared to the start of the year. Additionally, data suggests that this increase is due specifically to the disposal of "Animal Bedding Materials."

This is a reminder that the services we provide are intended to cover the cost of disposal of "Medical Waste." If you are producing animal bedding contaminated with pathogenic agents, infectious agents, or trace amounts of cytotoxic agents, please continue to dispose of these materials as medical waste. If the associated animals were intentionally infected with organisms likely to be pathogenic to healthy humans for the purposes of research, for invivo testing, or for the production of biological materials - then the bedding materials are medical waste.

However, if the animals associated with the animal bedding were not intentionally infected with human pathogens, then these waste materials are considered regular trash. You should place the non-infected animal bedding in suitable trash bags and personally bring them to the nearest outdoor trash container or dumpster. You may wish to autoclave this material prior to disposal, but this is not a necessary step.

Individual research protocols should detail if the bedding is expected to be contaminated or uncontaminated. If you are producing animal bedding that may be contaminated with hazardous chemicals or radioisotopes have been used in any assay, the waste generated must be handled as a chemical or radioactive waste. If there is a question as to the status of the bedding materials, please refer to the individual protocol.