

Dry Ice Disposal Guidelines

With dry ice being used in the transportation and preservation of COVID-19 vaccines across the country, we want to ensure you are aware of how to safely dispose of dry ice.

Dry ice changes directly into the gaseous form, it does not “melt” but it sublimates.

It takes about 24 hours for a block of dry ice to sublimate completely. Let it sublimate at room temperature in its styrofoam shipping container in an area that is amply ventilated.

It is important that no staff are nearby for this process as dry ice is basically compressed carbon dioxide. Do not leave dry ice in unsecured areas. Dry ice in an enclosed space can lead to build-up of carbon dioxide which can result in a potential for suffocation.

After the dry ice has sublimated entirely, you must dispose of the container as well as the gloves that were used during the process.



PPE AND TIPS FOR SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF DRY ICE

- Wear appropriate eye protection, including goggles and/or a face shield, as well as a laboratory coat
- Use tongs to handle dry ice when possible
- Use loose-fitting, thermally insulated gloves to manually handle dry ice
- Nitrile exam gloves **will not** provide enough protection
- Never handle dry ice with bare hands



NEVER DISPOSE OF DRY ICE IN:

SINK | TOILET | ANY DRAIN | THE TRASH OR GARBAGE

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