

Hazardous Identification Symbols



Biohazard Materials

This symbol identifies biohazard material. This is waste that could potentially cause the spread of infection, and includes anything that has been exposed to bodily fluids and tissue (either human or animal). This includes blood, cells, bandages, sample flasks and containers, swabs, and all non-reusable items that have been contaminated by potentially infectious material. Sharps capable of penetrating the skin are also considered biohazard material when contaminated with blood or fluids. Biohazard materials should be disposed of in leakproof and puncture proof containers.

Corrosive Materials

This symbol identifies corrosive materials. A substance is corrosive if it is aqueous and has a pH less than or equal to 2, or greater than or equal to 12.5. It is also considered corrosive if it is a liquid and corrodes steel at a rate greater than 6.35mm per year at a test temperature of 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Corrosive waste is considered hazardous and must be handled and disposed of in accordance with all relevant federal, state, and local regulations.



Flammable Materials

Flammable materials are identified by this icon. Also known as ignitable materials, these are defined as liquid waste with a flash point less than 140 degrees Fahrenheit or a solid which is capable of causing fire through friction, absorption of moisture, or spontaneous chemical changes, and when ignited burns vigorously and persistently. Gasses and oxidizers are also considered flammable in certain instances, and examples of flammable materials include acetone, gasoline, methanol, aerosols, propane, and certain pharmaceuticals. As a hazardous waste, flammable materials should be handled and disposed of following all relevant federal, state, and local regulations.

Toxic Materials

This symbol identifies toxic waste, which is any material that can harm human health or the environment and has been known to cause illness, death, or cancer. Waste is considered toxic when it contains a listed contaminant at a concentration equal to or greater than the respective regulatory level. Toxic materials typically fall into the categories of heavy metals, herbicides/pesticides, and organics (such as Benzene). Toxic waste can be extremely harmful and should be handled as hazardous waste, following all relevant federal, state, and local regulations.

