

Just the Facts... *Bloodborne Pathogens – Warning Labels and Signs*

Always place contaminated articles in –

- Color-coded (red) bags or containers, or
- Containers labeled with the biohazard symbol:



This table provides guidance for labeling containers of contaminated materials.

Labels and Signs

| Item | No Label | Biohazard Symbol | Red Container |
|---|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) Container | | X OR | X |
| Reusable Contaminated Sharps Container | | X OR | X |
| Reusable Contaminated Instruments | | X OR | X |
| Individual Specimen Containers | X ¹ OR | X OR | X |
| Contaminated Equipment Requiring Service | | X ² | |
| Specimens and RMW Shipped to Another Facility | | X OR | X |
| Contaminated Laundry | X ¹ OR | X OR | X |

¹Universal precautions are used for handling specimens or when personnel know the specific use of the container

²Plus a label indicating where contamination exists

For further details, see USACHPPM TG 190.

Source: Department of Labor, OSHA. *Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens: Precautions for Emergency Responders.* (OSHA 3130) Washington, DC: GPO, 1992.