

**SOP Human Tissue Disposal at SHU**

Adapted from BIO-SOP-06 - The Sheffield Biorepository

**1. Background**

SHU policy and government guidelines are in line with the HTA's codes of disposal, as stated in their various Codes. Disposal will be done in an ethical and respectful manner by incineration according to SHU guidelines for disposal of human tissue.

This SOP outlines the procedure for destroying tissue / samples from human tissue after they are no longer required or consent to retain the samples has been withdrawn.

**2. Procedure**

* Residual tissue / samples left after research projects have finished can be sent to the Biorepository if they are deemed still useful and not contaminated in any way.
* If it is agreed that the tissue / sample should be destroyed, they will be disposed of in accordance with [the local clinical waste disposal SOP](SOP103-03.docx) (SOP103).
* In all cases the disposal must be logged on the human tissue log. To get access to the log please email humantissue@shu.ac.uk.
* When samples logged at the Sheffield biorepository are disposed of, please complete a [sample disposal report](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccs2872%5CDocuments%5Chealth%20and%20safety%20-%20induction%5Chuman%20tissue%5Challam%20website%5Csample-disposal-record-shu.doc) and send it to the biorepository.

**I. Unfixed Tissue specimens**

These should be fixed in 10% buffered formalin prior to disposal. Once fixed proceed as per fixed samples.

**II. Fixed specimens**

The fixative should be drained off and disposed as specialist waste. Then the tissue should be placed in a biohazard plastic bag, sealed and placed in a yellow incineration bin with a red lid. The bin should only be used for human tissue. Do not fill above the designated fill line.

**III. Paraffin wax embedded blocks**

Blocks should be placed in a biohazard plastic bag, sealed and placed in a yellow incineration bin with red lid for disposal. The bin should only be used for human tissue. Do not fill the bin above the designated fill line.

**IV. Contaminated sharps and tissue sections on glass slides**

Glass microscope slides with fixed human tissue should be placed in a yellow sharp incineration bin with red lid. The bin should only be used for human tissue. Do not fill the bin above the designated fill line.

**V. Blood, Serum & Urine samples**

The sample containers should be resealed where appropriate and then placed in a yellow incineration bin or yellow sharps bin with red lid. The bin should only be used for tissue from living donors. Do not fill above the designated fill line.

**Note that different bins should be used for post-mortem tissues versus tissues from living donors.**

**It is good practice for human tissue to be disposed separately from other type of clinical waste.**