

Center for Biomedical Research

Biomedical Research Facility
517 North Columbia Road, Stop 9001
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9001
Phone: 701.777.4493
Fax: 701.777.6967

To All Animal Users at UND:

It has been brought to my attention that some investigators and laboratory staff are not using proper procedures for cleaning up and breaking down dirty cages in all rooms at CBR facilities. Improper breakdown of the cages results in a variety of safety concerns for CBR staff.

1. Lids cannot be placed upside down in the cages for cleaning. Improper stacking will result in sealing of cages by creating a vacuum during the autoclave cycle which results in cracking of the materials and maximizing space of the autoclave resulting in unnecessary use of equipment.
2. Bottles placed carelessly in cages or the biohazard bags have resulted in the breaking of the glass within biohazard bags.
3. Added labor cost to separate cages resulting in safety concerns such as exposure to chemicals and biohazards unnecessarily.

CBR will be charging individual labs that do not follow the procedures listed above for the replacement cost of cages or water bottles that are damaged.

- a. **The current cost of cage bottoms is \$65. Lids are \$21 each for replacement.**
- b. **The current cost of water bottles is \$1.50.**

Grant funds cannot be used to cover replacement costs. Only local funds are allowed.

CBR has a procedure for handling this equipment, and it is posted on CBR's website, as well as in each room in the facilities: <https://und.edu/research/biomedical-research/standard-operating-procedures.html>

If anyone has any questions about the proper way to bag up the cages, feel free to contact any CBR staff member and they will show you the proper procedure for bagging the cages and equipment.

Please contact me or Randy Luehring should you have concerns.

Darin Meulebroeck, DVM

Bagging Cages Procedure in the Bio-Hazardous Animal Rooms

By Animal Care Staff

Stacking

- Stacking helps with
 - Autoclaving
 - Organization
- Food Trays
 - Please empty food trays prior to stacking.
 - The autoclave may bake on any food making it difficult to sterilize.



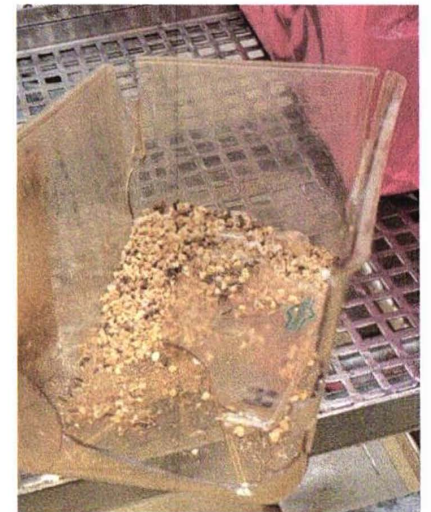
Improper Stacking

- Here is an example of stacking that should be avoided.
 - Less room in bags
 - Food may get baked on steel making it harder to sterilize.



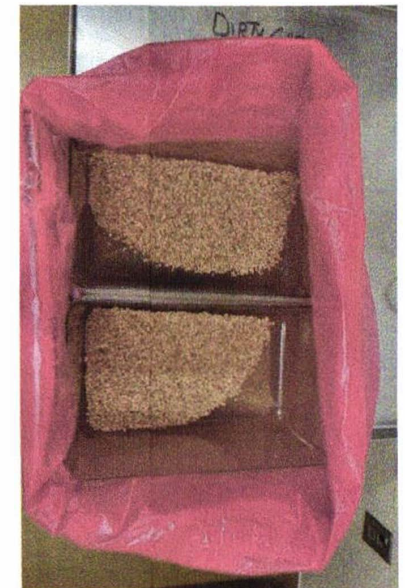
Water Bottles

- If not sorted properly they can cause the cages to crack.
- Two ways of bagging:
 1. In the rack
 2. In an empty cage bottom clear of any bedding like shown in the photo
 - Bedding and bottles combination can cause issues.



Bagging

- Select appropriate size bio-hazard bag
- Disassemble cages prior to placing in bags
 - Cages can be stacked easier when disassembled
 - An empty cage bottom can be used to hold the used water bottles.
 - An empty cage bottom can hold 6 to 8 bottles
 - An empty cage can also be used to stack the steel food trays
- Placement in the bags
 - For a small bag:
 - Can hold two columns of 7
 - For a large bag:
 - Three columns of 7



Disposal

- After the bags are sealed, they are brought to room 170.
- The dirty room tech will then autoclave all bags.
 - This includes all trash and gowns.

