



# GUIDE TO MANAGING MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL WASTE INDUSTRY

[LEARN MORE: MEDICAL  
WASTE TRACKING ACT OF 1988](#)

Regulations covering medical waste disposal were formed in the 1980s in response to an alarming trend of infectious healthcare waste material from ending up in the regular solid waste stream.

With a federal mandate from the EPA now in place, everyone from hospitals to dentists practices would have to adhere to strict laws about how to properly package and dispose of medical waste, which gave birth to the medical waste transportation and disposal industry.



These **DO** go in the red bag:



These **DON'T** go in the red bag:



## DEFINING MEDICAL WASTE

The Medical Waste Tracking act of 1988 defines medical waste as any solid waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals.

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DO'S AND DON'TS POSTER**



# PACKAGING MEDICAL WASTE



Needles, blades, endodontic files, partially full carpules, carpules contaminated with biohazardous waste.

## REGULATED MEDICAL (SHARPS) WASTE

- » Sharps container treated by steam autoclave
- » Sharps container disposed of via a registered medical waste hauler
- » Alternate treatment technology



Fluid blood in IV tubing, infectious tissues, cultures

## REGULATED MEDICAL (BIOHAZARDOUS) WASTE

- » Red Biohazard bag, stored inside a rigid container, disposed of via a registered medical waste hauler



Body fluids and liquid blood

## REGULATED MEDICAL (BIOHAZARDOUS) LIQUID WASTE

- » Sanitary sewer system



Waste of apparent medical origin that is not regulated medical waste, such as dressings with non-liquid blood

## SOLID WASTE

- » Regular trash disposed in a dumpster or trash maintained in sanitary condition



Iodine, \*lead, most cold sterilant solutions isopropyl alcohols, cleaners that are corrosive, (with a pH 12.5 or  $\leq 2.0$ )

## HAZARDOUS WASTE

- » Container with a hazardous waste label, a tight fitting lid and removed off site under a manifest by a registered hazardous waste hauler



\*Lead foil, sludge from silver recovery unit, (waste resulting from treating X-ray fixer onsite)  
\*Dental amalgam,  
\*Teeth with amalgam

- » Store in an appropriate container and maintain records that indicate that the waste is managed by a legitimate recycler
- » If not recycled, these wastes must be stored, labeled and disposed of as hazardous waste, as described above

*\* MedPro does not provide disposal services for this type of waste. This includes pharmaceutical waste.*

*Source: Kern County Environmental Health Services Department*



## EXPIRED OR UNUSED PHARMACEUTICAL DISPOSAL

In October 2014 the DEA put the Disposal Act into effect which changes how long health care facilities have to store and dispose of pharmaceutical waste.

The three main changes are:

- » You can now store used inner liners for up to 3 business days before they must be disposed of.
- » Controlled and non-controlled pharmaceuticals can be stored in the same container.
- » It is no longer necessary to have two pharmaceutical disposal employees present at all times when installing, removing, storing, and transferring inner liners.

All of these changes allow health care facilities to save time and money when disposing of medication.

**Have more Questions?  
[Click Here to Learn More](#)**

# ARE YOU OSHA COMPLIANT?

All employees who may come into contact with medical waste must be trained and certified on:

- ✓ OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Training
- ✓ Formaldehyde Exposure
- ✓ Infection Control
- ✓ Emergency Action Plans
- ✓ Hazard Communication Program:
  - ✓ Safety Data Sheets
  - ✓ Global Harmonization Standard Update



## MEDPRO ONLINE COMPLIANCE PORTAL

Comprehensive and convenient. Access it virtually anywhere!



### MSDS/SDS

Easily search, view, print, save and organize all of your SDS's.



### TRAINING

- BBP Training
- HAZCOM Training
- HIPAA Training



### ONLINE SAFETY AUDITS

Access and identify health, safety and fire hazards.



### FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Research, print and organize any of 203,000 federal regulations.



### ONLINE SAFETY PLANS

Complete and edit OSHA compliant safety plans. Make them available online for staff.



### ICD-10

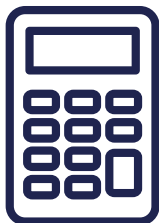
Search, print and bookmark all of your relevant codes to reduce billing errors and rejected claims.

**[Click Here to check if you are compliant](#)**

In addition, one of OSHA's basic requirements is that every employer displays the Job Safety and Health Protection workplace poster (OSHA 2203 or state equivalent).

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