

KNOW YOUR WASTE

Proper disposal keeps your workplace **safe, compliant, and efficient.** Always place waste in the correct container.



REGULAR WASTE

Clear or black bags

Includes

- Empty IV bags and tubing
- Empty medication vials or containers
- Wrappers, dressings, chux/underpads
- Empty foley or drainage bags
- Disposable patient items
- Sanitary napkins
- Gloves



BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE

Red bags, red containers, or any container with a biohazard symbol

Includes

- Blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM)
- Blood tubing, bags, hemovacs, pleuravacs
- Soaked or dripping bloody dressings
- Glass bottles that are intact or plastic bottles with body fluids
- Disposables soaked or dripping with blood/OPIM
- Contaminated waste from isolation patients
- Suction canisters or liners with bloody fluid/OPIM



SHARPS WASTE

Sharps container (ivory or red) marked with biohazard symbol

Includes

- All sharps (except those contaminated with chemo)
- Needles, broken glass vials/ampoules, blades, scalpels, razors, pins, clips
- Empty syringes with attached needles, empty tubexes, empty carpjects
- Trocars, introducers, guide wires, procedural sharps, specimen devices from endoscopy



NON-HAZARDOUS PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Blue container

Includes

- Syringes/tubexes/carpjects with residual pourable medication
- IV bags/tubing with residual medication
- Partially used prescription or over-the-counter meds
- **Examples:** Vials, tablets, capsules, powders, eye drops, suppositories
- **Note:** Unopened/expired medications should be returned to pharmacy



TRACE CHEMOTHERAPY WASTE

Yellow container or bag – labeled “Incineration Only”

Includes

- All supplies used to prepare/administer chemo medication
- Tubing, empty bags/bottles/vials, syringes, gloves, pads, masks, gowns, wipes
- **Note:** Unused chemo must be returned to pharmacy in the original bag for disposal

WASTE COMPATIBILITY GUIDELINES

Mixing certain waste types can cause **safety hazards and compliance violations**. Please follow these rules.



ALLOWED COMBINATIONS

Sharps + Red Bag Waste:

Sharps (in sealed puncture-proof containers) may be placed inside the same medical waste box as red bag waste if:

- The box is not overfilled.
- Sharps containers are sealed tightly and placed securely.



NEVER COMBINE

Pharmaceutical Waste + Sharps

Must be in separate containers.

Pharmaceutical Waste + Red Bag Waste

Keep separate to avoid contamination and regulatory violations.

Chemo Waste + Any Other Waste Type

Must always be disposed of in a designated chemo container.



UNIQUE BOXES FOR INCOMPATIBLE WASTE

If your facility generates two or more waste types that **cannot be mixed**, you must use a **separate, clearly labeled container for each type**.

REMEMBER

Proper segregation protects your staff, ensures compliance, and reduces disposal costs.