

WHAT IS MEDICAL WASTE?

Regulated medical waste is governed at multiple levels — federal (OSHA, EPA) and state — with the most specific rules set by each state's environmental and health agencies.

IN GENERAL, REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE INCLUDES:

- Items saturated or dripping with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM)
- Contaminated sharps
- Pathological wastes

Healthcare facilities should ensure they understand and comply with their state's specific definitions and disposal requirements.

CATEGORIES OF MEDICAL WASTE

Regulated medical waste is commonly sorted by category and identified using a color-coded system for safe handling and disposal:



BIOHAZARDOUS MEDICAL WASTE & SHARPS

Includes blood-soaked materials, gloves, gauze, and used sharps (needles, syringes, scalpels).



TRACE CHEMOTHERAPY WASTE

Empty chemotherapy drug containers, IV tubing, PPE used in drug preparation or administration.



PATHOLOGICAL WASTE

Human tissues, organs, and body parts.



NON-HAZARDOUS PHARMACEUTICALS

Expired, unused, or contaminated medications that are not classified as controlled substances or hazardous drugs.

DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL WASTE

Medical waste must be destroyed through **approved and regulated methods** to ensure pathogens and hazardous materials are **rendered harmless**. Transporters are regulated by the U.S. DOT and must issue manifests to track waste from the generator to the disposal facility.

Biosafe uses a secure online manifest system that keeps client records accessible and protected indefinitely.



APPROVED DESTRUCTION METHODS INCLUDE:

- Incineration
- Autoclaving (steam sterilization)
- Chemical disinfection
- Microwaving



PREVENTING IMPROPER DISPOSAL

Healthcare facilities and other generators should:

- **Identify** all waste types generated
- **Segregate** waste into correct categories
- **Use** the proper containers and color codes
- **Follow** the waste hauler's packing and sealing instructions

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

For help reviewing your organization's medical waste plan — or to learn more about Biosafe's services — contact us at:

connect@biosafewaste.com