



ONSITE MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT

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HSC § 117780 - TREATMENT DEFINED

- “Treatment” means any method, technique, or process designed to change or destroy the biological character or composition of any medical waste so as to eliminate its potential for causing disease or creating public or environmental harm, as specified in Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 118215).



HSC § 117740 - ONSITE DEFINED

- ❑ (a) "Onsite" means a medical waste treatment facility, or common storage facility on the same or adjacent property as the generator of the medical waste being treated.
- ❑ (b) "Adjacent," for purposes of subdivision (a), means real property within 400 yards from the property boundary of the existing medical waste treatment facility.



APPROVED MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT METHODS

1. Steam sterilization / Autoclave
2. Incineration
3. Other alternative medical waste treatment methods which are **both** of the following:
 - ☐ Approved by the department (California Department of Public Health)
 - ☐ Result in the destruction of pathogenic micro-organisms

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/CDPH%20Document%20Library/EMB/MedicalWaste/Alt Tech List 07072026.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/CDPH%20Document%20Library/EMB/MedicalWaste/Alt_Tech_List_07072026.pdf)

STEAM STERILIZATION / AUTOCLAVE

- ❑ Pressurized steam sterilizes regulated sharps/red bag waste which can then be managed as solid waste.
- ❑ Requirements HSC § 118215 (a)(2)



INCINERATION

- ❑ Complete combustion of regulated pathology/ trace chemotherapy/Non-RCRA pharmaceuticals waste into carbonized or mineralized ash.





APPROVED MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT METHODS

EXEMPT FROM OBTAINING A TREATMENT PERMIT:

1. Liquid or semi-liquid biohazardous laboratory waste treated via chemical disinfection, such as 10% bleach, discharged to the public sewer, if waste not determined to be hazardous waste.
2. Sharps treatment, not commingled with pharmaceutical or trace chemotherapy wastes, treated via an isolizer or solidification device approved by the department.
3. Non-RCRA pharmaceutical waste disposal via Rx Destroyer or Cactus Sink
 - ☐ Required to be managed as medical waste and disposed of as medical waste, even if rendered non-retrievable.

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A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, composed of several overlapping triangles and quadrilaterals. The colors include orange, olive green, light green, and blue. Some areas are filled with horizontal or vertical lines, while others are solid colors.

QUESTIONS?