



# County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION  
(858) 505-6880 FAX (858) 505-6848  
<http://www.sdcdeh.org>



## MANAGEMENT OF REGULATED WASTES GENERATED BY DENTAL, VETERINARY AND MEDICAL PRACTICES

### CONTAINMENT & LABELING

	BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE	SHARPS WASTE	PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE	PATHOLOGY WASTE	CHEMOTHERAPY WASTE	
					Trace	Pourable or Scrapable
<b>CONTAINER TYPES</b>	<b>Red</b> biohazard bag inside a closed, clean, leak resistant, rigid container in good repair.	Rigid, puncture-resistant container that, when sealed, is leak resistant and cannot be opened without great difficulty.	Clean, leak resistant, rigid container in good repair with tight fitting cover.	<b>Red</b> or white biohazard bag inside a closed, clean, leak resistant, rigid container in good repair.	Sharps Container, <b>red</b> or yellow biohazard bag inside a closed, clean, leak resistant, rigid container in good repair.	Compatible hazardous waste container.
<b>WASTE and CONTAINER MANAGEMENT</b>	The <b>red</b> bags shall be tied to prevent leakage or expulsion of contents during all future storage and handling	May place sharps containers ready for disposal in <b>red</b> biohazard bags or in containers with the biohazard bags.	Only Non-RCRA* pharmaceutical waste can be managed as medical waste. RCRA** pharmaceutical waste <b>must</b> be managed as a hazardous waste. *California-only hazardous waste **Federal hazardous waste (due to federal listing or waste characteristic).	Recognizable human anatomical parts & fixed tissues must be managed as pathology waste.	Only trace chemotherapy (<3% by weight) can be managed as medical waste.	Bulk chemo therapy (≥3% by weight) must be managed as a hazardous waste.
<b>SEGREGATION</b>	Contain separately from other waste at the point of origin in the producing facility and label as described below.					
<b>CONTAINER LABELING</b>	Generator's label and either: "Biohazardous Waste" or International Biohazard symbol and word "BIOHAZARD" on lid & sides	Generator's label and on lids & sides of container, either: "Sharps Waste" or International Biohazard symbol and word "BIOHAZARD"	Generator's label and the words "HIGH HEAT" or "INCINERATION ONLY" on lid and sides of container.	Generator's label and either: "Biohazardous Waste" or International Biohazard Symbol and word "BIOHAZARD" & either: "Pathology Waste" or "PATH" on lid and sides of container.	Generator's label and either: "Biohazardous Waste" or International Biohazard Symbol and word "BIOHAZARD" & either: "Chemotherapy Waste" or "CHEMO" on lid and sides of container.	Generator's site information and the words "Hazardous Waste", contents, physical state, hazardous properties & accumulation start date.
<b>CONSOLIDATION</b>	Sharps waste & Non-RCRA pharmaceutical waste may be consolidated in a common container (container may be reusable if properly treated) and labeled with the biohazardous waste symbol and the words "HIGH HEAT" or "INCINERATION ONLY" on the lid and sides.					

### WASTE STORAGE TIME LIMITS

Amount of medical waste stored at room temperature unless otherwise specified	BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE	SHARPS WASTE READY FOR DISPOSAL	NON-RCRA PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE READY FOR DISPOSAL	PATHOLOGY WASTE	TRACE CHEMOTHERAPY WASTE
<20 lbs/month	30 days	30 days	-	30 days	Manage as sharps or biohazardous waste according to the type of container used for storage and the type of waste.
≥20 lbs/month	7 days	30 days	-	7 days	
≥200 lbs/month	7 days	30 days	-	7 days	
Stored below 0° C (32° F)	90 days	90 days	-	90 days	
Any amount of Non-RCRA pharmaceutical waste	-	-	90 days when ready for disposal, or at least once per year	-	-

### RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL WASTE GENERATORS

Large Quantity Generator, total medical waste (all categories) generated is ≥200 lbs in any month of a 12 month period, with or without onsite treatment:	<b>2 years</b>
Medical waste DOT Materials of Trade Exception / pharmaceutical waste hauling exemption w/tracking documents:	<b>2 years / 3 years</b>
Small Quantity Generator, total medical waste (all categories) generated is <200 lbs in every month, with or without onsite treatment:	<b>3 years</b>



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## MANAGEMENT OF REGULATED WASTES GENERATED BY DENTAL, VETERINARY AND MEDICAL PRACTICES

### STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATED MEDICAL WASTE ACCUMULATION AREA:

- ◆ Shall be secured to prevent unauthorized access.
- ◆ Shall have warning signs in English and Spanish and be visible during daylight hours from at least 25 feet.  
 “CAUTION-BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA-UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT”  
 “CUIDADO-ZONA DE RESIDUOS-BIOLÓGICOS PELIGROSOS-PROHIBIDA LA ENTRADA A PERSONAS NO AUTORIZADAS”

<b><u>Generator’s Label</u></b>	
<i>(Must include this information):</i>	
<b>Name:</b>	<u>I. M. Sharp, DDS</u>
<b>Address:</b>	<u>123 Needle Stick Drive</u> <u>San Diego, CA 92101</u>
<b>Phone #:</b>	<u>(619) 123-4567</u>

### **BIOHAZARD LABEL OR EQUIVALENT**



**BIOHAZARD**

or

**“BIOHAZARDOUS  
WASTE”**

### **COMMON HAZARDOUS WASTES GENERATED**

HAZARDOUS WASTES	TYPE OF PRACTICE			TREATMENT OPTIONS	
	Dental	Veterinary	Medical	RECYCLING	DISPOSAL AS HAZARDOUS WASTE
Photoprocessing Waste	✓	✓	✓	✓ Preferred treatment	✓
Formalin + Ethanol mix (sterilizers)	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓
Cold sterilants containing Glutaraldehyde (2.7% or greater conc.)*	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓
Cold sterilants containing OPA (Orthophthaldehyde)*	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓
Dental amalgam**	✓			✓ Preferred treatment	✓
Pourable Chemotherapy Waste		✓	✓	N/A	✓
Universal Waste**	✓	✓	✓	✓ Preferred treatment	✓
Lead foil (hazardous if not recycled)	✓			✓ Preferred treatment	✓
RCRA Pharmaceutical Waste	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓

\* These wastes may also be treated onsite without a permit using a glycine-based treatment. Consult your Area Inspector for more information.

\*\*These wastes may include chair trap waste, spent vacuum filters, extracted teeth with amalgam fillings, etc.