

## WASTES

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### MEDICAL WASTE



[Disposal of  
Medical Sharps](#)

**Definition:** Medical waste is generally defined under state regulations. Medical waste is often described 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, including *but not limited to*:

- blood-soaked bandages
- culture dishes and other glassware
- discarded surgical gloves - after surgery
- discarded surgical instruments - scalpels
- needles - used to give shots or draw blood
- cultures, stocks, swabs used to inoculate cultures
- removed body organs - tonsils, appendices, limbs, etc.
- lancets - the little blades the doctor pricks your finger with to get a drop of blood

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### EPA Regulations

EPA has regulations governing emissions from [Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators](#) as well as requirements under the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act \(FIFRA\)](#) for medical waste treatment technologies which use chemicals for treating the waste.

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## State Regulations

Medical Waste disposal is regulated at the state level and we recommend that you look at either the [State Laws & Regulations](#) to see what laws apply in your state, or visit the links below:

- [California Medical Waste Management Program](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#)
- [West Virginia Infectious Medical Waste Program](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#)

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## Other Federal Agencies That Regulate Different Aspects of Medical Waste Management

- [Department of Transportation Office of Hazardous Materials Safety](#)  
Regulates Medical Waste transportation in 49 CFR, Sections 172 and 173.
- [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)  
Regulates medical devices such as sharps containers which are designed to safely contain used needles
- [Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#)  
Regulates some types of radioactive medical waste
- [Occupational Safety & Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)  
Regulates Medical Waste in the workplace
- [US Postal Service \(USPS\)](#)  
Regulates Medical Waste in the postal system

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## Other Companies of Interest in Medical Waste Management

- [Underwriters Laboratory \(UL\)](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#)  
Environmental and Public Health product certification programs
- [Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#)

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