

Medical waste chart

MATERIAL	IT'S HAZARDOUS WASTE IF ...	IT'S NONHAZARDOUS TRASH IF ...
Sharps (any device that could puncture, lacerate, or penetrate the skin)	The needles, scalpel blades, glass, or hard plastic (intact or broken) have been contaminated by human-disease-causing agents. In some states, the syringe is considered a sharp even by itself.	It's glass or hard plastic free from human-disease-causing agents.
Medical devices like blood tubes, vials, catheters, and IV tubes	The items contain human-disease-causing agents or have been used on animals with an infectious disease. Materials used in the administration of chemotherapeutic agents are also medical waste.	The items are simply contaminated with blood or other fluids from an animal not infected by human-disease-causing agents.
Animal tissues	The dead animals or animal parts are infected with human-disease-causing agents such as rabies, brucellosis, systemic fungal diseases, tuberculosis, atypical mycobacteriosis, and others.	The tissues come from any routine surgical procedures (castrations, ovariohysterectomies, and others) and are free of human-disease-causing agents.
Lab cultures	The bacterial, fungal, or viral cultures contain human pathogens.	The cultures resulted in negative tests. However, it's easier to just dispose of all lab cultures as medical waste.
Bandages, sponges, or bedding	The used, absorbent materials contain human-disease-causing agents.	The materials are free of human-disease-causing agents.
Animal waste	The waste is from chemotherapy patients or animals infected with human-disease-causing agents.	The waste is free of chemotherapeutic drugs and human pathogens.