



Does this go in the Red Bag?

Know-Where-To-Throw. Treatment of regulated medical waste is expensive, and it can result in the release of toxic emissions to the environment. Knowing where-to-throw saves money, improves compliance and worker safety, and reduces environmental impacts.

YES!

Cultures and stocks
Human pathological and anatomical wastes
Human blood and body fluids (including any saturated items)
Contaminated sharps (discard in puncture-resistant sharps container)
Other wastes with potential to cause disease

NO!

Used products for personal hygiene: Diapers, facial tissues, underpads, adult incontinence products, sanitary napkins, feminine hygiene items

When empty: Urine collection bags and tubing, suction canisters and tubing, IV solution bags and tubing, colostomy bags, ileostomy bags, urostomy bags, plastic fluid containers, enteral feeding containers and tubing, hemovac, urine bottles, and urine specimen cups (unless the item could release blood or body fluids)

Other: Catheters (urinary, suction), plastic cannula, IV spikes, nasogastric tubes, oxygen tubing and cannula, ventilator tubing, enema bags and tubing, enema bottles, thermometer probe covers, irrigating feeding syringes, and bedpans or urinals (unless the item could release blood or body fluids)

Absorbent items: Bandages, gauze, cotton swabs, and similar absorbent materials (unless the item is saturated or could release blood or body fluids)

NEVER!

Regular solid waste: Plastic bottles and wrapping, paper and newspapers, soda cans, cardboard, food waste/containers, etc. Is your facility recycling these items?

Hazardous waste: Batteries, bulbs, aerosol cans, toxic cleaners, thermometers and equipment that might contain mercury must be collected separately and managed as hazardous waste.

Pharmaceutical waste: Certain medications are listed or characteristic hazardous wastes and subject to the Hazardous Waste Pharmaceutical Rule, 40 CFR 266 Subpart P.

Radioactive waste: Radioisotopes (e.g., of barium, technetium, etc.), therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals and other wastes from radiation therapy and nuclear medicine are subject to additional regulatory requirements.

Other questions on regulated medical waste?

Check with your Infection Control Practitioner or the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. More information on the Virginia Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations (9VAC20-121) is available at: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/land-waste/solid-hazardous-waste/specialty-waste/medical-waste>