



How to **Identify** Infectious Waste

Without testing waste it's hard to be certain it's contaminated with harmful agents, yet it's not practical to test every potentially infectious item.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE WAYS TO DETERMINE THE LIKELIHOOD OF IT BEING INFECTIOUS. CONSIDER:

- ① Did the waste come from a patient with an infection, or from being in contact with someone carrying a contagious disease?
- ② Was the patient displaying infectious symptoms and is yet to be fully diagnosed?
- ③ Does the patient have a history of a known infection – such as a blood-borne virus or *Clostridioides difficile*?
- ④ Has a healthcare provider confirmed it's infectious?
- ⑤ Was the substance used in lab work containing infectious agents, or was in touch with them?

If the answer to any of those is “yes”, the waste may be infectious and you should treat it as such.

THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS FOR THE CORRECT DISPOSAL OF INFECTIOUS WASTE:

If it's infectious but doesn't have any other hazardous properties



Orange bag

If it's infectious and contaminated with medicines or chemicals



Yellow bag