

Offensive Waste: The Problem

The NHS Sustainable Development Unit are introducing targets to improve waste segregation including the introduction of offensive waste, however the issues surrounding the segregation of offensive waste are as follows:

- ▶ Waste is being incorrectly consigned as High Temperature Incineration (HTI) or Alternative Treatment (AT) and as such is being unnecessarily treated resulting in challenges with available incineration capacity and overspending.
- ▶ Offensive waste is often being sent either to landfill or incineration in aging clinical waste incinerators resulting in minimal to no waste to energy recovery.
- ▶ The segregation of offensive waste is a compliance requirement (hazardous waste regulations & HTM 07:01) as well as a legal requirement enforced by the EA.

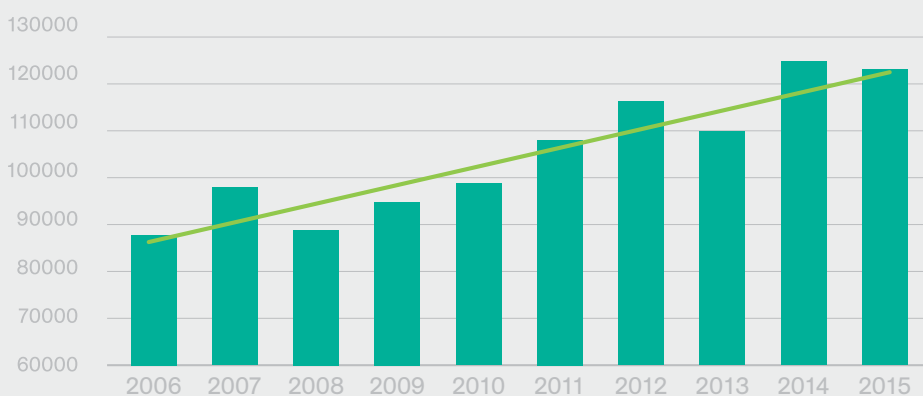
Offensive waste is often seen as an easy route to save on waste management costs, which when done incorrectly or rushed; can result in costly non-conformances and the loss of disposal options.

The amount of offensive waste being sent to landfill has increased by 39.7% between 2006 and 2015⁽¹⁾, with 120,000 tonnes of offensive waste being landfilled in 2015 alone ⁽¹⁾, however many domestic incinerators and some landfill sites don't accept offensive waste due to the perceived risk, visual appearance and poor segregation often seen.

Although offensive waste presents unique challenges, when done correctly it can bring about tangible cost savings and real environmental benefits.

The EA have introduced a new position statement on the compaction of offensive waste which means without a permit in place, heavy compaction of offensive waste to reduce the volume for transport is no-longer permitted and 'light' compaction is not a financially viable solution, as this doesn't offer any savings compared to a waste cart exchange service.

Offensive Waste Tonnes to Landfill 2006 – 2015⁽¹⁾



REFERENCE: (1) Freedom of Information Follow up Report on Management of Waste in the NHS by The Royal College of Nursing (2018)



Offensive Waste: The Solution

Sharpsmart's On-site Waste Processing

Our solution is to implement behavioural change systems to achieve the highest level of compliant segregation to ensure that the levels of offensive waste are increased and the amount of clinical waste minimised.

- ▶ Sharpsmart's on-site technicians ensure offensive waste is segregated correctly from point of production to the waste compound through the utilisation of bag-to-bedside, which is a behavioural change system with strategically placed bag holders, bag dispensers and blended learning materials which introduces the 'offensive' waste stream, as well as ingraining compliant segregation practices. This system typically results in a 40-70% diversion of clinical waste into the offensive and other waste streams, resulting in significant reduction in waste management costs.
- ▶ The offensive waste and general wastes are then processed through Sharpsmart's on-site permitted waste system to produce an unrecognisable fuel stock, reducing waste volumes and vehicle movements.
- ▶ The Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) is <50mm in size and completely unrecognisable as healthcare waste and can therefore be used as a fuel in modern, highly efficient Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities nationwide. This will see the offensive waste sitting on the recovery tier of the waste hierarchy, rather than disposal as it removes the need for landfill or clinical incineration, ultimately providing a more robust, cost effective and sustainable solution for offensive waste.
- ▶ The non-infectious offensive waste stream should be introduced in order to improve compliance (hazardous waste regulations 2011), however when done correctly/efficiently you will benefit from efficiencies in both cost and sustainability.
- ▶ This approach is in-line with NHS Improvements' targets of looking at innovative technologies for the handling of waste.
- ▶ Our partnership approach to shredding includes;
 - On-site shredder & technicians
 - Education materials
 - Supply of receptacles
 - Compactor & bin lifter
 - All part of an all-inclusive tonnage rate which is significantly below the current market rate for offensive waste

To discuss the option of introducing bag-to-bedside and offensive shredding at your facility please contact a member of our friendly customer service team!

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THE SHREDDER PROCESS

