

What Is **Clinical Waste**?

Clinical waste refers to a specific category of waste produced in healthcare settings such as hospitals, health clinics, dental practices, and research labs.

This type of waste poses a risk of infection, disease, or harm to anyone who comes into contact with it.

TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY CLINICAL WASTE, HERE ARE 10 COMMON EXAMPLES:



1. SHARPS WASTE

Sharps waste includes any item that has the potential to cut, pierce, or puncture skin including syringes, needles, scalpels, and other items defined as 'sharps'.



2. ANATOMICAL WASTE

Anatomical waste includes limbs, blood bags, and waste material from biopsy procedures where tissues or tissue samples may be taken.



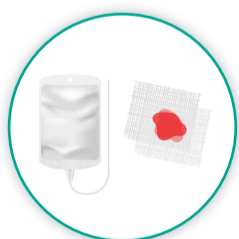
3. PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Pharmaceutical waste includes any unused or expired pharmaceutical products and/or drugs that aren't cytotoxic or cytostatic.



4. LIQUID MEDICINE WASTE

Liquid medicine waste includes two main types: medicine delivered via a sharp and unused or expired liquid medicinal products.



5. INFECTIOUS WASTE

Infectious waste falls into one of two categories:

Infectious waste for alternative treatment: waste such as PPE, dressings, and IV tubings that have come into contact with infectious bodily fluids and isn't medically or chemically contaminated.

This also includes waste generated by a patient diagnosed with any communicable disease.

Infectious waste for incineration: waste classified as being highly infectious due to secondary contamination such as medicinal or chemical.



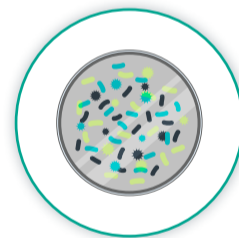
6. (INFECTIOUS) GYPSUM OR DENTAL AMALGAM

Gypsum and waste containing dental amalgam are considered as clinical waste only if deemed to be infectious.



7. CONTAMINATED LAB EQUIPMENT

Contaminated laboratory equipment can include lab tools, items, or other equipment such as cultures, petri dishes, glass slides, etc.



8. MICROBIAL WASTE

Microbial waste can include cultures, slides, specimens, or other microorganisms. Even empty vaccine vials might contain contents that may prove dangerous, especially if expired or contaminated with bacteria.



9. CONTAMINATED PPE

Any personal protective equipment that has been contaminated by coming into contact with, saturated, or soaked with blood, bodily fluids, or other materials deemed as infectious.



10. CYTOTOXIC OR CYTOSTATIC WASTE

Cytotoxic or cytostatic waste includes any medicinal product containing hazardous properties such as being toxic, carcinogenic, toxic for reproduction, or mutagenic.

Not limited to medicinal products alone, this also includes waste generated from the care of a patient prescribed a cytotoxic or cytostatic drug.