

Waste

GENERAL INFORMATION

All garbage must be placed in leak proof bags and closed securely before removal from patient's room. When garbage bags are $\frac{2}{3}$ full it should be secured and removed.

All housekeeping staff will wear personal protective clothing when handling clinical waste. All staff who need to move bags of waste by hand should:

- Ensure the bags are effectively sealed and are intact
- Handle bags by the neck only
- Know the procedure in case of accidental spillage

Waste items such as used bandages, briefs and garbage are not to be placed on the bedside tables, floor or in the sink

WASTE BAGS TO USE

Yellow Bag Clinical / Biohazardous Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containers of blood or other blood saturated body fluids. Disposable containers which are not emptied prior to disposal, should be securely taped shut and tubing clamped • Secretions or exudates whose contents cannot be hygienically emptied into toilet (e.g. Hemovac, sputum vial) • Transfusion lines or bags containing blood • All body tissue – including 'Exempt body tissue' derived from the operating room • Items saturated and dripping with blood and body fluids • Microbiology cultures
Black Bag Domestic/ General Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste derived from the clinical and non clinical areas which is not mentioned above and is not heavily contaminated with blood or body fluids • Urinary drainage bags and catheters • Feces • Office waste • Kitchen waste

For chemotherapy disposal, see [appropriate reference](#).

Waste (continued)

BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE

- Biohazardous waste bags should only be filled to $\frac{2}{3}$ full, as overfilling will prevent bags from being tied securely
- The containers for removal of biohazardous waste should be easily recognized, leak proof, and have a durable fitted lid. They must be sealed prior to transport and stored in areas unavailable to untrained staff, patients/residents or the public.
- Gloves and disposable apron/gown should be worn when handling biohazardous waste. Hands should be decontaminated appropriately following removal of gloves
- Goggles or face shields should be worn when disposing of body fluids if there is a possibility of splash exposure to eyes or mucous membranes.

Final disposal of biohazardous waste will be either by incineration or by autoclaving followed by landfill disposal

SPILLAGE OF BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS

Procedure:

- Wear gloves and disposable gown/apron and/or face protection as necessary
- Gross soil must be removed prior to cleaning and disinfecting
- Use paper towels for small spills, mop for large spills
- Clean the area
- Disinfect with approved hospital disinfectant or a fresh solution of household bleach (one part 5% bleach added to 9 parts water). Used paper towels, gloves and apron should be placed in Biohazardous Waste bag
- Mop heads should be placed in leak proof laundry bags
- Bucket will be rinsed and wiped with the chlorine solution
- Hands hygiene will be performed following the procedure and removal of personal protective equipment

For more information, please contact the [Infection Prevention and Control Program](#)