



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**
- Tissues and anatomical wastes**
- Blood and body fluids** (Including any saturated items)
- All sharps** (Discard in sharps container)
- Other wastes with the "Potential to Cause Disease"**

NO!

Personal hygiene items: Diapers, facial tissues, sanitary napkins, incontinence products

When empty: Urine collection bags and tubing, IV solution bags and tubing, colostomy bags, ileostomy bags, urostomy bags, plastic fluid containers, enteral feeding containers and tubing, hemovacs, and urine specimen cups (unless the item could release body liquids)

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 (unless saturated with body fluids)

Absorbent items: Unless saturated with body fluids

NEVER!

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

Other special wastes:

- **Hazardous materials:** Used batteries, toxic cleaners, thermometers, or any other equipment that might contain mercury must be collected separately and disposed of as hazardous wastes.
- **Unused medications:** Subject to facility procedures. Remember that certain medications are "listed" hazardous wastes and must be handled appropriately.
- **Radioactive wastes:** Barium and certain treatments are subject to additional regulatory requirements.

Other questions on regulated medical wastes?

Check with your Infection Control Practitioner or the Virginia DEQ's Don Brunson at 804-698-4239.

The Virginia regulations are found at:

www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/LandProtectionRevitalization/SolidHazardousWasteRegulatoryPrograms/MedicalWaste.aspx