

Waste Management

All staff are responsible for the safe management and disposal of waste and rubbish. Waste is potentially hazardous and if not disposed of correctly, can result in injury and infection.

Good waste management is important to ensure:

| | |
|---|---|
| Reduction of health and safety risks from waste | ✓ |
| Protection of the environment | ✓ |
| Compliance with environmental legislation | ✓ |
| Reduction in the costs of waste disposal | ✓ |

In healthcare settings, all waste must be segregated as per local policy and in accordance with your waste contractor.


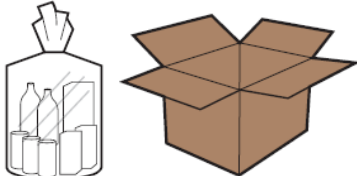



Black bags should be used for general domestic waste similar to the type of waste in a person's own home e.g. paper towels, food packaging. Black bags are disposed of in landfill. Please consider recycling where possible eg newspapers.

Tiger stripe bags should be used for non-infectious waste from service user with **no known infection** e.g. used pads, gloves and aprons. Tiger stripe bags are disposed of in landfill.

Orange bags should be used for **known or suspected infectious/clinical waste** eg aprons and gloves, wipes, wound dressings, paper towels. Orange bags are incinerated.

Disposal of Waste

- Waste bins should be positioned where they are easily accessible to staff.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when handling waste.
- All waste bags should be no more than two thirds full. This allows enough space for the bag to be tied securely.
- Make sure all waste bags are securely tied using a suitable plastic tie or secure knot.
- In health and social care settings, all waste bags should be labelled with the address and date prior to collection to ensure they can be traced if an incident occurs.
- When handling tied waste bags, only hold by the neck of the bag. Handle carefully so they do not tear, and keep the bag at arm's reach to reduce the risk of injury, eg if a sharp item has been inappropriately disposed of.
- Waste bags awaiting collection should be stored in a designated area away from service users and visitors.
- Sharps containers should be disposed of in accordance with local policy.
- Sharps containers awaiting collection should **not** be placed inside waste bags.
- In a service user's own home, waste should be securely bagged and disposed of as per local policy.

| Waste type | Disposal | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| General | Landfill |  |
| Recyclable | Recycling Facility |  |
| Continence | Deep Landfill |  |
| Infectious waste sacks | Alternative Treatment |  |
| Sharps bins / medicines | Clinical Waste Incinerator |  |

Test your knowledge

| <i>Please tick the correct answer</i> | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1. Should orange bags be used for infectious/clinical waste? | | |
| 2. Should waste bags be securely tied prior to disposal? | | |
| 3. Should tiger- striped bags be used for waste from a service user with a known infection?. | | |

Remember:

- Always segregate waste correctly as per local policy and in accordance with your waste contractor.
- When handling any waste bags, the bag should only be held by the neck and be kept at arm's length.
- It is important to correctly segregate waste to reduce the risk of transmission of infection.

Factsheet Activity

Please tick when activity has been completed

| | |
|---|--|
| Check that your bins are in good working order and are operated by foot pedal. | |
| Check that staff in your area do not open waste bin lids with their hands. | |
| When disposing of waste, check that waste bags are securely tied using a suitable plastic tie or secure knot. | |