

Types of Medical Waste - <http://www.malsparo.com/types.htm>

<p>Infectious/Biological</p> <p>If a waste can pass along a disease, it must be neutralized before disposal.</p> <p>Waste materials with fluids from patients with communicable diseases.</p> <p>If there is doubt as to the risk posed by a waste, the precautionary principle should be applied and the waste handled and stored as dangerous.</p> <p>Pathological waste is identifiable to the human eye as having come from a person's body. Extracted tumors, amputated limbs. This type of waste must be kept separate, treated with respect, and ultimately incinerated or interred.</p>	<p>Radioactive</p> <p>From radiation treatment. Sometimes from diagnostic procedures or experiments.</p> <p>Includes bulk radioactive material and waste generated from handling it (wipes, gloves, etc.) Can include biological material when mixed with radioactive substances (e.g. radioactive pellets inside body.)</p> <p>Usually found only in hospitals and research labs or specialized treatment centers. Sometime veterinarians. Most facilities that generate medical waste do not produce radioactive waste.</p> <p>Note that X-ray machines and MRI machines, although they generate radiation, do not leave radioactive waste.</p>
<p>Chemical waste</p> <p>Liquid and solids used in facilities, whether directly in treatment or in support (e.g. cleaning), may be worth special attention as waste.</p> <p>Includes waste pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>Some chemical waste is classified as hazardous under the law and must be stored and treated in accordance with regulations.</p>	<p>Sharps</p> <p>Solid waste that can penetrate the skin. Needles, scalpels, lancets, razors, scissors. Sometimes glass objects are classified as sharps waste, even if unbroken.</p> <p>Dangerous because these objects pose an injury risk (laceration) and an infection risk if they open the body to potentially infectious materials. Many facilities employ sharps and sharps waste is even generated by patients at home.</p>

General waste or "healthcare general waste" or "healthcare non-hazardous waste"

Over 70 percent of waste generated at most facilities. Sometimes over 90 percent. Paper, plastic, packing materials, food containers, etc. similar to waste produced at non-medical offices or homes. Classified by the waste management industry as "municipal solid waste".