

**County of Santa Clara
Department of Environmental Health
Hazardous Materials Compliance Division
Solid Waste Programs**



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**Medical Waste Generator Facility Requirements
California Health and Safety Code Sections 117600-118360**

Registration/ Permit:	Medical Waste Containment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Persons or businesses that process or produce regulated medical waste are required to be registered as a Medical Waste Generator with the County Environmental Health Department and obtain an annual permit. <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Waste Generators may include medical and dental offices, clinics, surgery centers, research laboratories, dialysis clinics, education and research facilities; veterinary offices, clinics, hospitals, and pet shops; trauma waste management practitioners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Approved containers w/ labels shall be rigid, leak resistant with tight fitting lids and separated from all other waste. Biohazardous waste shall be placed in red biohazard bags labeled "Biohazardous Waste" and placed in containers with appropriate labels. Warning signs shall be posted in areas designated to store medical waste containers and shall display the following warning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> "CAUTION—BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA—UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT," and in Spanish, "CUIDADO—ZONA DE RESIDUOS—BIOLÓGICOS PELIGROSOS—PROHIBIDA LA ENTRADA A PERSONAS NO AUTORIZADAS".
Medical Waste Management:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> All Medical Waste Generators shall file with the Environmental Health Department a Medical Waste Management Plan that details the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Type of business and address. <input type="checkbox"/> Name of the owner and contact person. <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated average monthly quantity of medical waste generated. <input type="checkbox"/> Type of treatment used onsite. <input type="checkbox"/> Name and business address of the registered hazardous waste hauler used by the generator for backup disposal and/or treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Storage area & containers shall be secured against unauthorized entry and be clean of debris. <input type="checkbox"/> The area must also be easily accessible for waste removal. <input type="checkbox"/> Storage time for biohazardous waste is 90 days at 0°C or 30 days if less than 20/ lbs per month is generated or 7 days if 20 lbs/month or more is generated. <input type="checkbox"/> Sharps waste may be stored for 90 days at 0°C or for 30 days when 3/4 full and sealed. <input type="checkbox"/> Chemotherapy waste may be stored for 7 days or for 90 days if stored at 0°C. <input type="checkbox"/> Pathology waste may be stored for 7 days or 90 days if stored at 0°C. <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical waste may be stored for 90 days when container is full, or one year if less than 10 lbs per year is generated.
Registered Hazardous Waste Transporter-Approved Medical Waste Transporter	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Medical waste transported offsite from the generator for consolidation and/ or treatment shall be transported by an approved medical waste transporter. 	

<p>Medical Waste Separation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ SHARPS include devices that have acute rigid corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, including, but not limited to hypodermic needles, needles with syringes, lancets, blades, acupuncture needles, blood vial contaminated with biohazardous waste, root canal files, and broken glass items. ❑ BIOHAZARDOUS include laboratory waste, human or animal specimen cultures; stocks of infectious agents, wastes from production of bacteria, viruses, spores, discarded animal vaccines, and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures; human or animal surgical specimens or tissue, and fluids suspected to be infected with agents known to be contagious to humans; waste containing recognizable fluid blood, fluid blood products. ❑ PATHOLOGY is Biohazardous waste including surgical specimens or tissue that have been fixed in formaldehyde or other fixatives; recognizable human body parts. ❑ CHEMOTHERAPY includes vials, IV tubing, gowns and gloves contaminated with chemotherapy agents. ❑ PHARMACEUTICAL -Outdated or loose, unused pharmaceuticals classified by Chapter 11, Title 22, California Code of Regulations (22 CCR). 	<p>Permitted Steam Sterilization Treatment Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Written operation procedures must establish operation for biological indicators detailing time, temperature, and pressure. ❑ Must also include waste type, container type, pattern of loading, water content, and maximum loading capacity. ❑ Recording or indicating thermometers must be checked during each complete cycle to ensure 121 Centigrade (250 Fahrenheit) for at least one-half (depending on load) to achieve sterilization. ❑ Thermometers shall be calibrated annually. Heat sensitive tape (or other approved method) shall be used on each biohazard bag or sharps container treated onsite to indicate adequate sterilization conditions. ❑ Monthly biological indicator (<i>Bacillus stearothermophilus</i> or other approved indicator) shall be placed at the center of a load under standard operating conditions to confirm attainment of adequate sterilization conditions. ❑ Procedures in this section shall be recorded and records maintained for not less than three (3) years.
<p>Odor or Nuisance</p>	<p>Alternative Technology shall be approved by the California Department of Public Health.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Increased pick-up frequency may be required if odor from stored biohazardous waste becomes a nuisance. 	<p>Treatment</p>
<p>Record Retention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ A medical waste may be discharged to a public sewage system without treatment if it is not a biohazardous waste of a type described in either subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 117635, it is liquid or semi-liquid, and its discharge is consistent with waste discharge requirements placed on the public sewage system by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board with jurisdiction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ All records shall be kept for three years for large and small quantity generators. 	<p>Wash and Decontaminate Containers</p>
<p>Limited Quantity Hauler Exemption Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Approved transportation containers shall be rigid, leak proof secondary containers and be separated from other wastes. Tracking documents shall contain the names of persons authorized to transport medical waste and the date and number of containers transported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ A person shall thoroughly wash and decontaminate reusable rigid containers for medical waste by a method approved by the enforcement agency each time they are emptied, unless the surfaces of the containers have been completely protected from contamination by disposable liners, bags, or other devices removed with the waste.