



Colorado Department
of Public Health

Compliance Bulletin
Solid Waste
Infectious Waste Management
reviewed/revised January 2005

Generators, transporters, and facilities that treat, store, or dispose of untreated infectious waste have specific responsibilities for dealing with such

approved by their local governing authority and the state health department to accept this type of waste, however.

If untreated infectious waste is disposed of in a solid waste disposal facility, these procedures must be documented in the generator's waste handling plan and must be acceptable to the waste hauler and disposal site. [25-15-403 CRS] Receptacles containing infectious waste must be clearly labeled with the biohazard symbol or with the words "Infectious Waste" in letters at least one inch high. Untreated waste must be stored, packaged, contained, and transported in a manner that prevents the release of the waste material and in a manner to prevent nuisance conditions. [6 CCR 1007-2 Section 13.8] Common industry practice is to use red bags for the disposal of infectious waste.

Contaminated sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) must be placed in a puncture resistant container and be properly designated as untreated infectious waste or made noninfectious by an appropriate treatment method. Untreated containers of sharps cannot be compacted. [6 CCR 1007-2 Section 13.8.4] The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recommends that needles, syringes, lancets and other sharps be collected in a sharps container and be sent to a collection site for proper disposal. There are many commercially available mail-in programs offered.

Alternatively, waste generators may treat their infectious waste themselves to render it noninfectious or contract with a medical waste disposal company. Infectious waste that has been appropriately treated to render it non-infectious is no longer considered infectious for handling and disposal purposes. [25-15-404 CRS] Treated waste can be disposed of with other noninfectious and nonhazardous solid wastes after the generator either identifies it as appropriately treated waste or provides the hauler and] prog id wastes

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the site-specific infectious waste management plan. Solutions of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (bleach) diluted between 1:10 and 1:100 with water are acceptable for disinfection of surfaces and for decontamination of sites following initial cleanup of spills of blood or other potentially infectious materials. Permitted solid waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities must clean up any spills or loss of containment of infectious wastes according to their approved certificate of designation.

Transportation

The US Department of Transportation regulates the safe transportation of hazardous materials. Infectious substances, including regulated medical waste, are one class (Division 6.2) of hazardous materials regulated under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Parts 171-180). An infectious substance may not be transported unless the requirements of these regulations are met. For more information on infectious waste transportation requirements, contact the hazardous materials transportation information line at 1-800-467-4922 or review the US DOT brochure on infectious substances transportation at [http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/PHMSA/Downloadable/Files/Files/Transporting Infectious Substances brochure.pdf](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/PHMSA/Downloadable/Files/Files/Transporting%20Infectious%20Substances%20Brochure.pdf) .