



- Healthcare waste may contain certain materials that render it hazardous by virtue of its infectious, radioactive, carcinogenic etc properties
- National and regional guidelines for waste disposal must be followed (*DOH Waste Management Guidelines, 2012*). These guidelines assist healthcare facilities to meet their legal requirements under the *Waste Management Act*
- All clinical waste awaiting collection by waste contractors should be stored in locked containers away from client areas
- A risk assessment should be completed to identify the safest method of securing sharps in bins from inadvertent knocking over



Waste segregation– it is vitally important that all healthcare workers know how to segregate waste into its appropriate stream

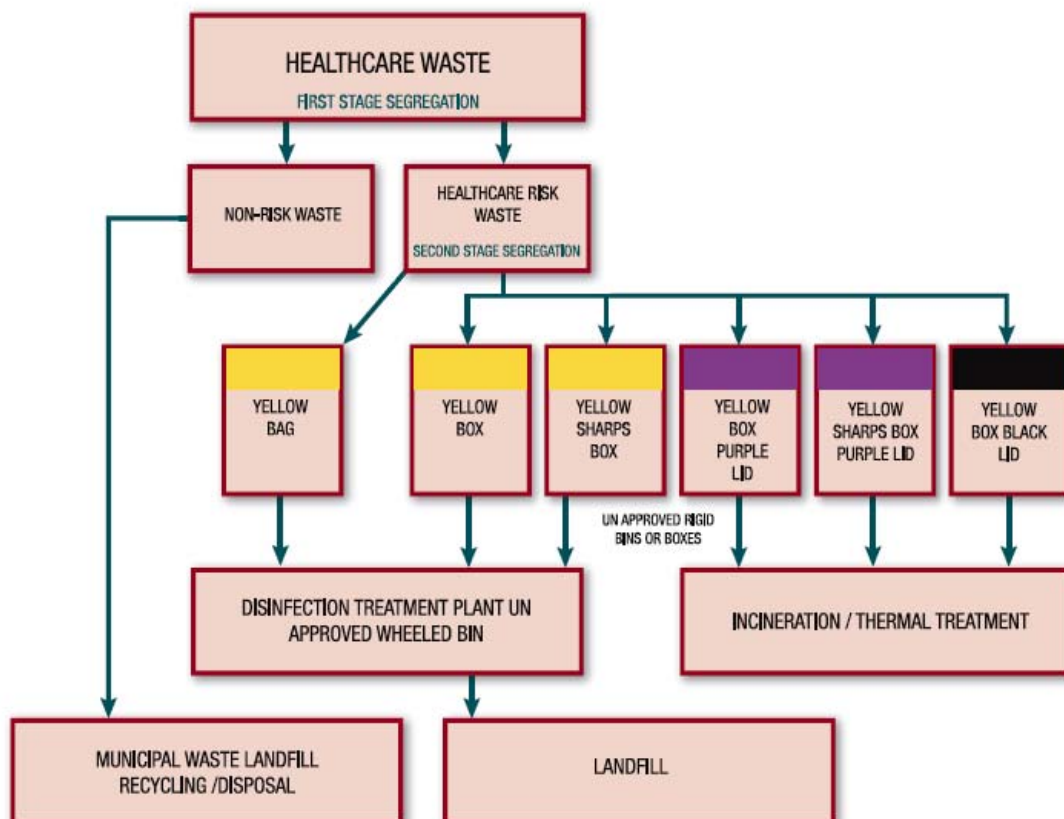


Figure 1. Healthcare Waste-Basic Segregation and Packaging Schematic. Note: UN requirements may require the use of inner liners or receptacles for some wastes.

## Types of Waste containers and indications for use



### Yellow Healthcare Risk Waste Bags

All blood stained or contaminated items (including dressings, bandages etc.)  
Suction Catheters, tubing and wound drains  
Incontinence waste from known or suspected enteric infections



### Yellow Rigid Boxes

Blood and blood administration sets  
Body fluids but not in bulk and must be solidified  
Disposable suction liners  
Redivac drains  
Drained histopathology waste (no formaldehyde)  
Sputum containers from known or suspected TB cases  
Clinical wastes from Lab permitted (no chemical residues permitted).



### Yellow Rigid Bin with Purple Lid

Small quantities of residual medicines  
Out of date medicines  
Controlled substances  
Pharmaceuticals left over after administration to patients  
Damaged stock from retail pharmacists  
No sharps or free liquids permitted



### Yellow Sharps Bin with red/blue Lid

Used sharps materials such as:  
Needles, Syringes  
Scalpels, Sharps tips of IV sets  
Contaminated slides  
Stitch cutters, Guide wires  
Razors  
Blood stained/contaminated glass



### Yellow Sharps Bin with Purple Lid

Needles, syringes, sharp instruments etc. that have been used for the administration of cytotoxic waste.  
Controlled drugs (discharge first)



### Yellow 30/60 litre rigid bin (black lid)

Non- autoclaved microbiological cultures  
Large / recognisable anatomical body parts  
Waste from known or suspected CJD cases  
Non-autoclaved large metal surgical objects e.g. hips  
Placenta in conjunction with additional leak proof containment  
No sharps or free liquids permitted

Note: Bags and containers should only be filled to agreed level. (2/3 for bags and 3/4 for containers) Tag tracking system should be used as well.

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