

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

**Waste Policy
Contaminated/Regular**

Purpose:

To identify the differences between contaminated and regular waste.

To reduce the risk of contamination to the environment.

To provide guidelines for storing and discarding all waste products.

I) Contaminated Waste

Definition: Contaminated waste is any waste from which blood, body fluids/tissues, or infectious agents can be released on contact, or if there is dripping potential or a chance of flaking from waste caked with these materials. Refer to the Attached table for specific examples.

- Contaminated waste containers are obtained from Environmental Services.
- Contaminated waste containers should be marked with the name of the unit/area prior to removal.
- Contaminated waste containers are placed in controlled areas such as dirty utility rooms and only in a patient room when the patient has excessive blood/body fluids/tissues that cannot be confined and contained. They should not be placed in patient waiting rooms, halls, or in any clean area or in close proximity to clean areas. Containers may be placed in the nurse's station to facilitate appropriate discarding of patient care items, but should not be located next to sinks or clean supplies.
- Contaminated trash is picked up by Environmental services daily. Additional contaminated trash containers may be obtained from Environmental Services at any time.
- Only those items which meet criteria for contaminated trash are discarded in these containers, since contaminated trash is incinerated.
- Personnel involved in the handling or disposal of contaminated waste are informed of the contamination risk and are trained in the appropriate handling and disposal methods by their department manager.

II) **Regular Waste**

- All waste containers must be NFPA 101 approved; each unit/area is responsible for ordering these from the General Service Store.
- All non-contaminated waste is removed by Environment Services daily and as necessary and sent to the landfill.

III) **General Guidelines**

- All waste containers are filled to no more than 3/4 of their capacity and must be emptied/disposed of as necessary.
- Contaminated waste containers and regular waste containers can be stored together, but they can not be stored in an area designated as clean.
- All waste must be confined inside the container.
- If a spill occurs, follow the *Spill Removal* policy.

Personnel involved in the handling or disposal of contaminated waste are informed of the contamination risk and are trained in the appropriate handling and disposal methods by their department manager.

Administrator

Date

Written: 4/95
Revised: 9/97, 3/01, 4/02
Reviewed: 3/98
Approved by Clinical Board: 5/15/01, 5/21/02

Contaminated Waste	
Includes	Does Not Include
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood and body fluids/tissues that can be released on contact. • Blood products and blood collection bags and tubing. • Diapers and linen savers with blood/ body fluids. • Blood or plasma contaminated disposable items. • Disposable surgical drapes, laps, dressings, and other items that are saturated with blood or body fluids/tissues. • Suction canisters • Tubes containing blood • Thoraceles • Dressings and pads saturated with blood and body fluids/tissues • Human pathological wastes including tissue, organs, body parts, stillbirths, placentas, and fluids that are moved during surgery, delivery, pathology or autopsy • Blood and body fluids/tissues, animal carcasses, and bedding exposed to infectious agents during research • Sharps wastes; needles, scalpels, scissors, glass pipettes, capillary tubes, slides, cover slips, and glass tubes containing blood (placed in sharps container only). • Any other disposable waste which has been mingled with potentially infectious waste • Cultures, blood vials, tubes, and associated biologicals from laboratories • HEPA filters from biological safety cabinets and air conditioning systems. • Disposable diapers or underpads (Chux) from patients on Enteric isolation • Infectious waste spill clean-up debris • Discarded live and attenuated vaccines • Dialysis waste, tubing, filters, disposable sheets, towel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary pads • Diapers • Diapers and linen savers with urine and feces only • IV bottles and tubing without blood • Urinary catheters and tubing • Non-bloody airways and endotrach tubes • Non-blood breathing circuits and tubing • Oxygen tubing, mask, and humidifiers • Items that have been steam sterilized after use • Paper towels • All wrappers and disposable items not saturated with blood and body fluids/tissues • Syringe packaging, alcohol preps, IV tubing, vials and ampules • Non-bloody disposable gowns, mask, and gloves • Flushed blood administration tubing, flushed dialyses membranes • Items with <u>no</u> contamination by substance for which the patient is isolated • Food wrappers, IV bags, newspapers, boxes, packaging, or wrappers • Food and food trays from isolation patients • Chem/glucose strips • Hemocults • Non-bloody gloves, masks, eye wear, face shields, and gowns • Non-bloody exam table papers • Radioactive anti-neoplastic waste • Disposable thermometers • Needles and sharps (placed in sharps container) • Thermometer probes
<p>Waste is not contaminated simply because of location, i.e., Operating Room, Hemodialysis, isolation rooms. These areas can have both clean and contaminated waste.</p>	

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Effective Date: 6/1/01