Handling and storage

If you produce:

- More than one third of a black bag of offensive household clinical waste, or
- Infectious household clinical waste, or
- Cytotoxic/Cytostatic household clinical waste,

it is important to separate these clinical wastes from your household black bag waste.

Also:

- Avoid direct contact with the waste.
- Store waste in approved household clinical waste bags or sharps containers away from children.
- Bags must be no more than three quarters full (5kg max weight) and tied/ sealed at the neck.

Special arrangements for sharps disposal

- Sharps include: syringes, needles and sharp medical instruments.
- Place sharps only in an approved sharps bin and never loose in a bag or any other container.
- In the event of accident or injury involving sharps seek medical advice immediately and safely dispose of the item in the approved way.

Tourists and temporary residents

We can also arrange collections for visitor households and temporary residents in Cornwall. Please contact us for more information.

Supply of sacks and boxes

Household clinical waste bags can be obtained by contacting us via the details on the back of this leaflet. Sharps containers are supplied by your healthcare provider or pharmacy; Cornwall Council do not provide these.

Contact us

For further advice and guidance on the clinical waste collection service please email us at: refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk
Or call us on: 0300 1234 141

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:
Cornwall Council, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AV
e: equality@cornwall.gov.uk
t: 0300 1234 100

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www.cornwall.gov.uk/clinicalwaste
Which bag or container should I use?

Offensive household clinical waste
- Gloves and aprons
- Incontinence pads
- Disposable nappies
- Non-infectious dressings
- Catheter bags
- Syringes used for food products
- Sanitary towels

Infectious household clinical waste
- All treatment waste contaminated with bodily fluids
- Diarrhoea and vomiting
- HIV/Hep B contamination
- Infectious dressings

Black bag
Use a black bag if you have less than one third of a bag. The waste should be double wrapped and disposed of with other household waste.

Tiger bag
Use a tiger bag if the amount is greater than one third of a black bag.

Cytotoxic or Cytostatic household clinical waste
All items that could have the following hazardous properties:
- Toxic
- Carcinogenic
- Mutagenic
- Toxic for reproduction
- Waste contaminated by medicines, including:
  - Personal protective equipment (gloves, masks and gowns)
  - Syringe bodies and tubing

If you are unsure please check with your healthcare provider or pharmacy.

Anything which can puncture the skin and may be contaminated with blood or other bodily fluid
- Empty Medicine bottles and cartridges of insulin
- Finger prick lancets and platforms
- Pen-needles
- Blades
- Glass ampoules
- Needles and syringes

Sharps bin
(lid and label can be yellow, orange or purple)