

Regulated medical waste disposal checklist

Use this checklist as a general assessment for regulated medical waste (RMW) in your facility. For unchecked items, consult your state RMW law.

- You know your state's definition of RMW.
- Your RMW policy is in compliance with state regulations.
- Your staff can differentiate RMW from regular waste.
- You dispose of liquid RMW down the drain in accordance with state laws or your local publicly owned treatment works.
- You know whether your facility must register as an RMW generator according to state law.
- You separate RMW in containers for disposal according to the following groups: sharps, fluids, and other RMW.
- RMW containers are rigid, leak-resistant, impervious to moisture, strong enough to prevent tearing under normal conditions, and sealed to prevent leakage.
- Sharps are packaged in puncture-resistant containers.
- RMW fluids are packaged in containers that are break-resistant and have tight lids or stoppers.
- RMW is stored in a manner that maintains the integrity of the packaging and protects from water and wind.
- Outdoor RMW storage areas are locked.
- RMW is stored to prevent rotting or decay, using refrigeration when necessary.
- RMW is protected from animals and does not provide a breeding place or a food source.
- Nonrigid packaging and inner liners from reusable containers are handled as RMW and not reused.
- Reusable RMW containers are decontaminated.
- Containers not properly decontaminated are properly disposed of.
- Each package of RMW displays the biohazard symbol or label. Red plastic bags used as inner packaging do not need a label.
- Your RMW vendor follows state regulations for documenting and labeling the RMW from your facility.
- You review waste acceptance protocols with your vendor and are in agreement concerning regulations.

Source: HCPPro's *What You Need to Know about Hazardous Waste in Healthcare Clinics* and NIOSH's *Regulated Medical Waste Self-Inspection Checklist*.