

# Proper Medical Waste Packaging

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*Medical Waste Removal & Disposal*

# Overview

- Proper packaging of medical waste
- Classifications of waste
- Packaging Procedures
- Common mistakes
- Regulations

# Classification of Waste

- Soft Waste
  - Paper products, gauze, gowns, gloves, IV tubing (without needles), soft plastic items
- Sharps Waste
  - Syringes, needles, metal instruments, glass, slides, hard plastic items
- Liquid Waste
  - Any liquid waste over 20cc must be placed in a leak-proof container
- Hazardous waste should never be put into a medical waste container
- Trace Chemotherapeutic and Pathological Waste must be placed in separate colored container or a box labeled with the appropriate label
- Non-Hazardous, Non-RCRA, Non-DEA or Controlled Substances must be placed in separate container and labeled with the appropriate label

# Medical Waste Packaging Procedures

Regulations are the same regardless of whether you are using cardboard medical waste boxes or reusable plastic medical waste tubs.



# Packaging Procedures

All regulated medical waste must be placed into a DOT approved red bag prior to sealing or closing the medical waste box or reusable medical waste tub.



# Labeling Sharps Containers



All full sharps containers must be labeled with the **generator's name** and **address** prior to being placed into the medical waste box or reusable medical waste tub for final disposal.

# Packaging of Full Sharps Containers



Sharps containers that are full should be closed and locked and then placed into the red bag that is lining the medical waste box or reusable medical waste tub.



# Final Closure of the Red Bag

The red bags must be tied in a single knot before the medical waste box or reusable medical waste tub is closed and sealed.





# Labeling the Bag



The inner red bag must also be labeled with the generator's name and address.

# Packaging Procedures Cont.



Containers that are correctly closed will have the lids placed securely on the reusable medical waste tub, without any obstructions or materials protruding from the container, as seen in the picture to the left.



The photo to the left shows a reusable medical waste tub that is not properly packaged. The inner red bag is not tied and material is protruding outside the container.

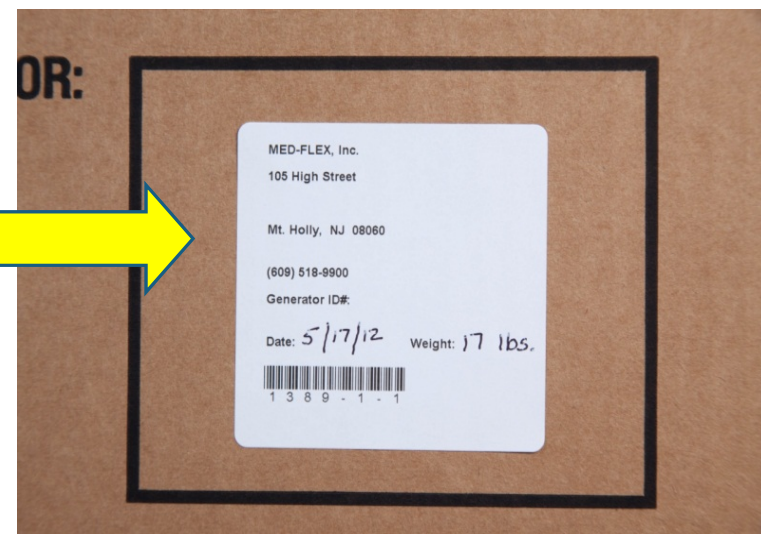
# Closing and Taping the Box

All Boxes must be properly sealed using 2" poly tape. Both flaps should be secured using a single strip of poly tape down the middle seam.



# Labeling the Box

The medical waste box and reusable medical waste tub must be labeled with the generator's name, address, NJDEP # and date of shipment. The box and tub should also have the transporter's name, NJDEP# and identify the contents as regulated medical waste.





# Common Packaging Mistakes

Loose needles may never be placed directly into the red bag. They must be first placed into a sharps container. The sharps container then must be closed and locked prior to being placed into the medical waste box or reusable medical waste tub.



# Common Packaging Mistakes



Full sharps containers must always be closed and locked prior to being placed into the medical waste box or reusable medical waste tub.



# Common Packaging Mistakes



Un-solidified suction canisters should never be placed into the medical waste box or reusable medical waste tub without first being placed into a leak proof container or a solidifying agent added to the canister and closing all the caps so that the container is secure and leak proof.

# Common Packaging Mistakes

In order to meet DOT standards for transportation, medical waste boxes and reusable medical waste tubs must be properly sealed. 4 - flapping a box because you could not find any tape is not an acceptable sealing standard for DOT.



# Common Packaging Mistakes

Medical waste boxes must be packaged, sealed, stored and transported in accordance to the arrows printed on the box.

Always adhere to which way the arrows on the box are pointing during packaging to minimize that chance of leakage.



# N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.1 (2009) Regulations

- Visit: <http://1.usa.gov/JdPxF8>
- Packaging Requirements (7:26-3A.11)
- Labeling Requirement (7:26-3A.14)
- Marking (7:26-3A.15)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK IN FRONT OF YOU**

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