



Infectious Waste Management Guidance for Home Healthcare Providers

This guidance document provides guidance for handling and disposal of infectious wastes unique to home healthcare providers.

The scope of the infectious waste regulations includes waste segregation, management, storage, and treatment of infectious wastes generated or disposed of in Ohio.

Who is a generator of infectious waste?

Any business that generates infectious waste is considered an infectious waste generator and is subject to Ohio's infectious waste regulations. Only infectious wastes generated by an individual while providing his/her own care is exempt from the infectious waste regulations. Therefore, a home healthcare provider that generates infectious wastes resulting from patient services is defined as a generator and is subject to Ohio's infectious waste regulations.

What are large and small generators?

An infectious waste generator is classified as a small generator when less than 50 pounds of infectious waste are generated per calendar month and a large generator when 50 pounds or more of infectious waste are generated per calendar month. Home healthcare providers should also reference the guidance document for small generators or large generators of infectious waste for more detailed information regarding proper infectious waste segregation, management, storage, and treatment of infectious wastes generated or disposed of in Ohio.

Common infectious wastes generated in home healthcare settings

- Sharp wastes (including, but not limited to hypodermic needles, syringes, and scalpel blades) used in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings
- Waste materials generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings
- Human blood specimens and blood products. "Blood products" does not include bandages or disposable gowns that are lightly soiled with blood
- Any other waste materials the generator designates as infectious wastes

Handling and Disposal Requirements

Small Generators

- Infectious sharps must be placed in a sharps container.
- All other categories of infectious waste must be segregated from non-infectious wastes and placed in separate containers.
- Small generators may dispose of the infectious waste in the home of the patient **after** weighing with a portable scale for purposes of the monthly generation log. They may also take the infectious waste back to a central location for quantification and disposal.

Applicable Rules

Ohio Administrative Code		
3745-27-01	3745-27-32	3745-27-35
3745-27-30	3745-27-33	3745-27-36

More Information

For more information regarding this document, please contact the Infectious Waste Unit at (614) 644-2621.

Disclaimer

The procedures set out in this document are intended solely for guidance. The procedures in this document are not intended and cannot be relied upon to create rights, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against Ohio EPA. While this guidance document is not legally binding, all statutes and rules referenced herein are binding and enforceable.

Ohio EPA reserves the right to vary this guidance or to change it at any time without public notice and also reserves the right to deviate from this guidance on a case-by-case basis.

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Large Generators

- Infectious sharps must be placed in a sharps container.
- All other categories of infectious waste must be segregated from non-infectious wastes and placed in separate containers.
- Large generators must take any infectious waste to the business location and ensure compliance with applicable treatment requirements.
- Infectious wastes that are transported from a patient's home to a centralized location, are subject to the U.S. Department of Transportation hazardous materials regulations contained in 49 C.F.R. 171 to 49 C.F.R. 180.

Infectious waste that is also a hazardous waste: Any infectious waste or infectious waste mixture that meets the definition of a hazardous waste shall be managed as a hazardous waste. Some vaccines contain thimerosal, a mercury containing preservative, and must be disposed of as a hazardous waste.

Other Applicable Guidance

Small Generators of Infectious Waste. https://epa.ohio.gov/portals/34/document/guidance/gd_75.pdf

Large Generators of Infectious Waste. https://epa.ohio.gov/portals/34/document/guidance/gd_78.pdf