



MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR SMALL-QUANTITY GENERATORS

The companies listed that handle, transport, treat, or dispose of medical waste does not constitute an endorsement or recommendations by the County of Ventura or the Ventura County Environmental Health Division. Generators use their own discretion in engaging the services of these companies.

BIOHAZARDOUS AND SHARPS WASTE

1. **On-Site Steam Sterilization by Autoclave** requires Registration with annual inspections. Not acceptable for pathology, chemotherapeutic, or pharmaceutical waste. Generator is responsible for maintaining operations records of all medical waste treated on site by steam sterilization.
1. **On-Site Treatment by Approved Alternative Technologies** provide for chemical or heat disinfection or sterilization. However, most technologies are unsuitable for the small-quantity generator office. Registration with annual inspections is required. Not acceptable for pathology, chemotherapeutic, or pharmaceutical waste.
1. **Removal by Registered Medical Waste Transporter** for transport to an off-site medical waste treatment facility for treatment by a method approved by California Department of Public Health. Registration-Record is required with inspections every three to five years.

Most transporters require a regular pick-up where frequency of pick-up is arranged based on amount of waste generated. Some will pick up medical waste on a “will-call” arrangement whereby the generator calls the transporter when they have medical waste ready for disposal. A list of Registered Medical Waste Transporters approved by the California Department of Public Health to transport medical waste can be obtained from the State’s website:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/MedicalWaste/Transporters.aspx>

Generators are responsible for maintaining tracking documents of all medical waste transported off site for two years.

SHARPS WASTE

1. **Isolyzer Sharps Waste Management System** uses chemical disinfection process that disinfects and encases the sharps in a thick gel. This system is purchased as a kit through medical, dental, and laboratory supply houses.

Sharps containers vary in size. Registration-Record is required with inspections every three to five years.

2. **EARTH-SHIELD Company** uses a thermal treatment process that sterilizes and encases the sharps in a solid “cement like” medium. The system is purchased as a kit through medical, dental, and laboratory supply houses. Registration-Record is required with inspections every three to five years.
3. **Mail-Back Disposal Services** provide for mailing sharps waste to an off-site treatment facility through the U.S. Postal Service. Registration-Record is required with inspections every three to five years.

Sharps containers and prepaid mailing cartons are purchased from the company as a kit. Tracking documents must accompany the sharps waste, and a copy of the tracking document indicating treatment information shall be returned to the generator by the treatment facility. Generators are responsible for maintaining tracking documents of all sharps waste disposed through a mail-back service. By using an approved mail-back system, medical waste generators can dispose of their waste in an economical fashion. These systems return the waste to an appropriate medical waste treatment facility. As of January 1, 2015, the Department no longer grants approvals for the systems. The systems must meet USPS standards.

<https://pe.usps.com/Archive/HTML/DMMArchive20100607/601.htm>

For additional information on requirements for use of these mail-back services, contact your local health or environmental health agency, or the California Department of Public Health, [Medical Waste Management Program](#) at 916/449-5671.

TRANSPORTATION OF LIMITED QUANTITIES OF MEDICAL WASTE UNDER A D.O.T. MATERIALS OF TRADE EXEMPTION.

The MWMA, Section 117946 and Section 117976, will allow for the transport of up to 35.2 pounds of medical waste to a central point of accumulation for consolidation and disposal, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The principal business of the generator is not to transport or treat regulated medical waste.
2. The generator shall adhere to the conditions and requirements set forth in the materials of trade exception, as specified in Section 173.6 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
3. A person transporting medical waste pursuant to this section shall provide a shipping document to the receiving facility, and the receiving facility shall maintain this document for a period of two years, containing all of the following information:

- o The name of the person transporting the medical waste.
- o The number of containers of medical waste transported.
- o The date the medical waste was transported.

4. A generator shall maintain these shipping documents on-site or electronically, for not less than three years.

5. A generator transporting medical waste pursuant to this section shall not be regulated as a hazardous waste hauler pursuant to Section 117660.