

Infectious Waste Disposal Guidelines for Body Art Facilities

What is infectious waste?

Infectious waste is waste that may contain blood or other potentially infectious materials. Common infectious waste from body art includes:

- Used needles and sharps (sharps waste)
- Items saturated with blood (bandages, wipes)
- Gloves, gauze, and other materials contaminated with body fluids

How should infectious waste be stored?

1. Sharps (Needles, Razors, etc.):

- Place in a puncture-resistant, labeled sharps container with a tight-fitting lid.
- Do not overfill. Containers must be closed when $\frac{3}{4}$ full.

2. Other Infectious Waste (e.g., blood-soaked materials):

- Store in leak-proof, labeled bags or containers that are red and marked with the biohazard symbol.
- Keep containers closed when not in use.
- Store in a secure, designated area away from clients and general waste.

How should infectious waste be disposed of and transported?

- According to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, mixing infectious waste with general waste can spread pathogens and injure personnel and the public.
- Licensed transporters or mail-back services that comply with US Department of Transportation (49 CFR Parts 171-180) and US Postal Service (Domestic Mail Manual 601.10.17.5) regulations must be used to transport infectious waste.
 - An individual transporting infectious waste is required to have a commercial driver's license with a hazardous endorsement.
 - List of licensed transport facilities can be found here:
<https://deq.nd.gov/foia/SolidWaste/ActiveInfectiousWasteFacilities.aspx>
- **INFECTIOUS WASTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED INSIDE THE WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITY.**

ND Infectious Waste Regulations can be found here: <https://www.westernplainsph.org/body-art-safety-sanitation>

- North Dakota Infectious Waste Rules: NDAC 33.1-20-01.1
- ND DEQ Guide to Understanding Infectious Waste
- Western Plains Public Health Body Art Code: Section II-2.9

Protect yourself. Protect your clients. Proper disposal is required by law.

Please contact us with questions: eh@westernplainsph.org.

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