

DEFINITION OF INFECTIOUS WASTE

Infectious Waste is any solid, semisolid or liquid waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals, that were, or are likely to have been in contact with an infectious agent. There are nine different categories of Infectious Waste:

1. Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including, without limitation, specimen cultures, cultures and stocks of infectious agents, waste from the production of biologicals, and discarded live and attenuated vaccines.
2. Laboratory wastes that was, or is likely to have been, in contact with infectious agents that may present a substantial threat to public health if improperly managed.
3. Pathological waste, including, without limitation, human and animal tissues, organs and body parts, and body fluids and excreta that are contaminated with or are likely to be contaminated with infectious agents, removed or obtained during surgery or autopsy or for diagnostic evaluation, provided that, with regard to pathological wastes from animals, the animals have or are likely to have been exposed to a zoonotic or infectious agent. Human blood, human blood components or products made from human blood, and the following body fluids are considered to be infectious: Saliva in dental procedures, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic procedures and any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood.

Note: Fixed tissues (tissues preserved in formalin, alcohol, etc.) is not infectious wastes and can be discarded as solid wastes. Tissues fixed on slides (glass or wax) should be packaged in cardboard boxes prior to disposal as solid waste. However, fixed tissues such as organs or body parts shall be discarded as infectious waste.

4. Human and animal blood specimens and blood products that are being disposed of, provided that, with regard to blood specimens and blood products from animals, the animals were or are likely to have been exposed to a zoonotic or infectious agent. "Blood products" does not include patient care waste such as bandages, band-aids, or disposable gowns that are lightly soiled with blood or other body fluids, unless such waste is soiled to the extent that the generator of the waste determines that they should be managed as infectious waste. Lightly soiled is defined as an item that has only a small area that is soiled or has a minimal amount of contamination. Disposable items that are contaminated with blood or body fluids to the point where the blood or body fluid on the contaminated item could easily be transferred to another surface by contact is

infectious waste. This also includes items “caked” with dried blood and body fluids. Contaminated undergarments of patients diagnosed with a communicable disease where the infectious agent is transmitted through urine or feces shall be disposed of as infectious waste.

5. Sharp wastes used in the treatment, diagnosis or inoculation of human beings or animals or that have or are likely to have, come in contact with infectious agents in medical, research or industrial laboratories, including without limitation, hypodermic needles, syringes (without needles), scalpel blades and glass articles that have been broken. Sharps include any object that can easily penetrate the skin, whether used or unused.

6. Any other waste materials generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals, that the Public Health Council created in Section 3701.33 of the Revised Code, by rules adopted in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Revised Code, identifies as infectious waste after determining that the wastes present a substantial threat to human health when improperly managed because they are contaminated with, or are likely to be contaminated with, infectious agents.

7. Contaminated carcasses, body parts and bedding of animals that were intentionally exposed to infectious agents from zoonotic or human diseases during research, production of biological, or testing of pharmaceuticals, and carcasses and bedding of animals otherwise infected by zoonotic or infectious agents that may present a substantial threat to public health if improperly managed.

8. Waste materials from rooms of humans or enclosures of animals that have been isolated because of a diagnosed communicable disease that are likely to transmit infectious agents. Also included are waste materials from the rooms of patients who have been placed on blood and body fluid precautions under the universal precaution system established by the Centers for Disease Control, if the specific wastes generated have been identified as infectious wastes by rules referred to in paragraph 1.15.6.

9. Any other waste materials the generator deems as Infectious Waste.