



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.
2. **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.
3. **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:

www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Documents/MedicalWaste/Haulist.pdf

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 cementitious 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. Companies approved for use in California can be obtained from the State's website:

www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Documents/MedicalWaste/mailback.pdf

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.

LIMITED QUANTITY HAULING EXEMPTION

Generator Transport of Medical Waste to permitted on-site medical waste treatment facility, transfer station, or a facility for the purpose of consolidation before treatment and disposal. Registration-Record and Limited Quantity Hauling Exemption are required with inspections every three to five years.

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