



Red Bags vs. Clear Bags: What goes where?

YES! RED BAG

- Blood, products of blood, and their containers
- Discarded surgical instruments and gloves
- Anything caked, soaked, or dripping in blood
- Tissues from surgery and autopsy
- Cultures and stocks of infectious agents
- Discarded vaccines
- Suction canisters with any fluid
- Hemovac and pleurovac drainage
- Operating room waste saturated with body fluids as defined by OSHA
- All waste produced in a room from patients isolated with HIGHLY communicable diseases (*These are CDC Class IV definitions including Ebola, Lassa Fever, Marburg and Small Pox; NOT such conditions as AIDS, Hepatitis or TB where the waste can be handled as non-red bag waste*)
- Discarded needles used to give shots or draw blood (e.g., medical sharps) in the appropriate container
- Removed body organs (e.g., tonsils, appendices, limbs)
- Discarded lancets
- Any potentially infectious material.
- Contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed
- Pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials

NO! CLEAR BAG

- IV bags, tubing, foley bags
- Non bloody gloves
- Packaging
- Feces, vomit, and urine-soaked waste
- Blood-tainted waste.
(*Note distinction between blood-soaked and blood-tainted. A little bit of blood on an item can go in the regular waste stream*)



*** Always check local regulations.**

Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10051

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment

<http://cms.h2e-online.org/ee/rmw/state-rmw-regulations/idaho>

Healthcare Without Harm

www.noharm.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/>

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/multimedia_assistance/hospitals/h2e.cfm