

CLINICAL WASTE

Clinical waste information

What is clinical waste?

Clinical waste is defined in the Waste Regulations 1992. It means any waste, which consists wholly or partly of -

- Human or animal tissue
- Blood or bodily fluids
- Excretions
- Drugs or other pharmaceuticals products
- Swabs or dressings
- Syringes, needles or other sharp instruments

Which unless rendered safe may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it. And

- Any other waste arising from medical, nursing, dental, veterinary, pharmaceutical or similar practice, investigation, treatment, care teaching or research, or the collection of blood for transfusion, being waste which may cause infection to any person coming into contact with it

What controls are there on the disposal of clinical waste?

There are stringent controls in place to ensure that clinical waste is managed safely and is recovered or disposed of without harming the environment or human health. Under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990 it is unlawful to deposit, recover or dispose of controlled waste (including clinical) waste without a waste management licence, contrary to the conditions of a licence, the terms of an exemption, or in a way which causes pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

Contravention of waste controls is a criminal offence. Section 34 of the Act, places people concerned with controlled (including clinical) waste under a duty of care to ensure that the waste is managed properly, recovered or disposed of safely and is only transferred to someone who is authorised to keep it.

Householders are exempt for their own household waste

Are there any special arrangements for hypodermic needles produced at home?

Diabetic residents using either Blood Glucose Tests or Insulin injections should have a sharps container prescribed by their GP. The used sharps container should be returned to the GP for disposal.

Household Clinical Waste

The Council will make arrangements for Solihull residents being treated at home for medical conditions, producing household waste that falls into the categories listed below.

Your healthcare professional will make the collection arrangement by contacting the Council and booking the collection. Once the collection is booked you will be provided with the appropriate colour coded bag.

Please note that the Council provides clinical waste bags, but not sharps containers. These can be obtained on prescription, please ask the Health Care Professional.

Arranging a clinical waste collection

Please contact your Health Care Professional who will arrange the clinical waste collection with the Council on your behalf

Categories of clinical waste

- **Offensive**
Any item of waste used for the collection or disposal of human excreta or secreta, as well as sanitary waste, incontinence waste and nappies. This excludes waste from the medical treatment of humans.
- **Health Care Waste**
Any item of waste arising from the medical treatment of humans or animals, other than Health Care Risk Waste (see below)
- **Health Care Risk Waste**
 1. Any biological waste, e.g. human tissue or blood
 2. Any related swabs and dressings from hospitals, clinics, surgeries or laboratories
 3. Pharmaceuticals or radioactive waste
 4. Any infectious waste known or likely to be contaminated with pathogens
Infectious waste is defined as waste that contained pathogens i.e. viable micro organisms, including bacteria, viruses, rickettsiae, parasites, fungi or recombinant hybrids or mutants, that are known to cause infectious disease in animals or humans when exposed'
 5. Sharps, any discarded syringe, needles, cartridges, broken glass or any other contaminated disposable sharp instrument or items

Clinical waste the Council are unable to collect

- **Cytotoxic waste** - from specific cancer treatments, including needles, tubes and vials that may contain such fluids. The Healthcare Professional will arrange for an alternative waste contractor to collect.
- **Radioactive waste**
- **Medical Instruments**
- **Larvae** - (live) used in the treatment of medical conditions
- **Nappies** - unless the person / child has a medical condition that requires them being incinerated. Please note that nappy waste, classified as sanpro/offensive can be disposed of with the normal household waste, see section above
- **Medical Specimens / Tissue**
- **Body Parts**
- **Pharmaceuticals or drugs, including vials** - these can be taken back to the pharmacy
- **Highly contagious / Infectious Materials**
- **Foetal Tissue and Placentas (from home births)**

- **Unused medicines and unused medical aerosols** - please treat these as pharmaceuticals
- **Blood Products**
- **Sharps and Syringes both contained and loose**

For further information about disposal of such items please contact your local healthcare advisor.

Discarded Needles

If needles or syringes are discarded

- In public open spaces (parks and Council owned land)
- On the public highway

Please call the Council on 0121 704 8000 and a collection will be arranged

- If they are found on private property - i.e. non Council land, homes, gardens, shops, schools etc it is the responsibility of the owner to arrange collection. Please contact a private waste disposal company for further advice
- Do not handle sharps if found

Schools and Colleges

Clinical waste produced or found on the premises of a school or educational body is the responsibility of the individual school to arrange collection. Please note the Council do not provide a clinical waste collection service to schools and they are advised to contact their provider of their normal waste collection for further advice

Commercial Clinical Waste

Any commercial premises producing clinical waste, for example

- Private Residential Homes
- Private Nurseries
- Hotels
- Pubs and Night clubs

The waste holders (owner of the commercial business) are required to make their own arrangements for the safe disposal of the clinical waste.

Contact a private waste disposal and collection company to arrange collection and for further advice to their particular waste type.

Contact us

Solihull Council - 0121 704 8000