



Waste Container Visual Audit Checklist

Routine visual audits help ensure regulated waste is properly segregated, reduce compliance risks, and promote a safe environment for patients, staff, and visitors. Use this checklist when visually auditing municipal trash containers. If any regulated waste item is observed, remove it (when safe to do so) and place it into the proper regulated waste container. If unsure where an item should be placed, visit the [EH&S website](#) or call EH&S at (916) 734-2740.

Unit/Clinic Name: _____ **Date of Inspection:** _____
Person Conducting Inspection: _____

Hazardous Waste

N/C	Item	Category	Proper Disposal Method
☐	Flammable (i.e., skin glue, adhesive remover)	Chemicals	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Hydrogen Peroxide (greater than 3%)	Chemicals	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Isopropyl Alcohol	Chemicals	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Formalin	Chemicals	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Misc. Cleaning Product – Not Empty (i.e., rapicide, liquid bleach)	Cleaning Supplies	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Disinfecting Cleaning Wipes – Not Empty (i.e., oxivir, bleach wipes, sani-cloth wipes)	Cleaning Supplies	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Hand Sanitizer (any size container, unopened packet)	Personal/Hygiene Products	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Hand Sanitizing Wipes	Personal/Hygiene Products	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Skin Marker	Surgical/Procedure Products	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Topical – Unopened (i.e., SurePrep wipe, Cavilon no sting barrier film)	Surgical/Procedure Products	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Chloraprep - Isopropyl Alcohol - Unopened	Surgical/Procedure Products	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Prevnatics Wipes (3.15% CHG 70% IPA) -Unopened	Surgical/Procedure Products	Black RCRA (Flam/Tox)
☐	Silver Nitrate	Chemicals	Black RCRA (Oxidizer)
☐	Other		

Pharmaceutical Waste

N/C	Item	Category	Proper Disposal Method
☐	Liquid – Medication Vial	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Empty Medication Vial	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Liquid – Medication IV Bag	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Medication Syringe	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Topical (i.e., antibiotic ointment, hydrocortisone, xeroform, aesthetic cream, barrier paste)	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Nebulizer - Not Empty	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Non-Hazardous Contrast	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Medication Pill	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Medication Single Dose Cup – Not Empty	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Laxative powder- Not Empty	Pharmaceutical	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Scrub Stat CHG 2% - Not Empty	Personal Care Products	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	CHG 4% And Under (i.e., packet wipes, oral rinse, foam, cloth wipes, bottle)	Personal Care Products	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Endure Foam Hand Soap - Not Empty	Personal Care Products	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Soaps - Body Wash - Shampoo	Personal Care Products	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Toothpaste - Mouthwash	Personal Care Products	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Lotion	Personal Care Products	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Hydrogen Peroxide (3% or less)	Procedure Products	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Povidone Iodine – Not Empty	Procedure Products	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Other		

Biohazardous/Medical Waste

N/C	Item	Category	Proper Disposal Method
☐	Syringe With Blood	Visible Blood	Red Biohazardous
☐	Tubing with Blood	Visible Blood	Red Biohazardous
☐	Vial with Blood	Visible Blood	Red Biohazardous
☐	Bandages with Blood	Visible Blood	Red Biohazardous
☐	Chucks with Blood	Visible Blood	Red Biohazardous
☐	IV Start Kit	Visible Blood	Red Biohazardous
☐	Misc Items with Blood (i.e., blood on gloves, PPE, towels, swabs)	Visible Blood	Red Biohazardous
☐	Suction Canister W/Fluid OPIM	OPIM	Red Biohazardous
☐	Swabs W/OPIM	OPIM	Red Biohazardous
☐	Speculum W/OPIM (if speculum contains batteries, wipe and manage as universal waste)	OPIM	Red Biohazardous
☐	OPIM - Other W/ Fluid OPIM	OPIM	Red Biohazardous
☐	Other		

Biohazardous/Medical Waste – Sharps

N/C	Item	Category	Proper Disposal Method
☐	Sharp With Safety Device Activated (i.e. Lancet)	Sharps	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Needle - Used	Sharps	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Syringe With Needle - Used	Sharps	Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Other		

Biohazardous/Medical Waste – Pathology (PATH)

N/C	Item	Category	Proper Disposal Method
☐	Recognizable Human Tissue (excluding teeth)	Pathology	Pathology

Protected Health Information (PHI)

N/C	Item	Category	Proper Disposal Method
☐	Prescription sticker affixed to syringe	Printout	Use Identi-hide label, then Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Prescription sticker affixed to IV bag	Printout	Use Identi-hide label, then Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Prescription sticker affixed to other item (i.e., med tube, bottle)	Printout	Use Identi-hide label, then Blue Co-mingled Pharm/Sharps
☐	Patient Printout Sticker affixed to non-medication item (i.e., plastic bag, paper bag, feeding syringe)	Printout	Use Identi-hide label, then Trash
☐	Patient Printout Sticker affixed to item (i.e., paperwork, envelope)	Printout	Shred Bin
☐	Patient Printout Sticker (single or perforated together)	Printout	Shred Bin
☐	Misc. Printout W/ PHI	Printout	Shred Bin
☐	Patient Wristband	Printout	Shred Bin
☐	Patient Menu	Printout	Shred Bin
☐	Office Paper - Name & Medical Info	Handwritten	Shred Bin
☐	Sticky Note - Name & Medical Info	Handwritten	Shred Bin
☐	Other		

Universal Waste

N/C	Item	Category	Proper Disposal Method
☐	Aerosol Can - Not Empty (i.e., spray adhesive remover, Painease, shave cream)	Aerosol	Universal Waste (empty aerosol cans - free of propellant/no liquid remaining – can be disposed in trash)
☐	Batteries	Batteries	Universal Waste - Batteries

☐	Laryngoscope/Glidescope	Electronics	Place battery in Universal Waste, then Reprocessing
☐	Medical Equipment W/Circuit Boards	Electronics	Universal Waste
☐	Speculum with non-removable light/batteries	Electronics	Universal Waste (wipe before placing into container)
☐	Electronics – Other (i.e., flashlight, patient fan, patient phone)	Electronics	Universal Waste
☐	Other		

Number of Trash Containers Inspected: _____

Number of Regulated Waste Items Identified: _____

☐ No regulated waste observed in municipal trash

☐ Regulated waste identified and corrected

☐ Staff education provided during inspection

☐ Unit/Clinic leadership notified

Comments / Corrective Actions:
