

# Healthcare Waste Bags and Sharps Collections

## What is healthcare waste?

Healthcare waste is any waste which consists completely or partially of potentially harmful substances. These can include; human or animal tissues, blood or other bodily fluids, excretions, drugs or other pharmaceutical products, swabs or dressings, syringes, needles or other sharp instruments and waste which, unless considered safe, may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it. These can be classed as:

- Offensive (non-hazardous) waste
- Infectious clinical waste
- Infectious/non-infectious sharps waste

These waste types may be generated in household settings by self-medicating patients.

## What is offensive (non-infectious) waste?

In a domestic setting waste such as; nappies, feminine hygiene products, incontinence pads and swabs are considered as offensive (non-infected) waste and is **acceptable** with your **regular Household (non-recyclable bin) Collection**.

## What should I do with my infectious waste?

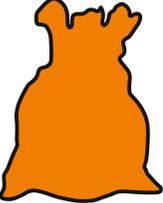
All healthcare waste believed to be **infected** should be placed into an **Orange Bag**. These are available from your Local Council. **ALL Sharps** (infected or non-infected) must be placed into a **rigid sharps container** marked with a UN 3291 symbol. These are **available** from your **Local Council or via prescription**.

**Orange Bag** and **rigid sharps containers** require a specialist collection that can be arranged through your Local Council.

## What about pharmaceuticals that are no longer needed?

These should be taken to a pharmacy who operate a 'take back' service. They should not be flushed down the toilet or thrown into landfill.

**For further information or to request a confidential healthcare waste collection from your household, please contact your Local Council using the numbers provided on the back of this leaflet.**

Container	What can I put in my container?	How to dispose
 <p>Non-recyclable bin/sack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-infected gloves</li> <li>• Non-infected aprons</li> <li>• Non-infected swabs</li> <li>• Non-infected bandages</li> <li>• Non-infected nappies</li> <li>• Non-infected incontinence pads</li> </ul> <p><b>No Sharps or pharmaceuticals</b></p>	<p>This is classed as <b>offensive (non-infected)</b> waste and is <b>acceptable</b> with your <b>regular Household (non-recyclable bin) Collection</b>. Please double bag if possible.</p>
 <p>Orange sack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infected gloves</li> <li>• Infected aprons</li> <li>• Infected swabs</li> <li>• Infected bandages</li> <li>• Infected nappies</li> <li>• Infected incontinence pads</li> </ul> <p><b>No Sharps or pharmaceuticals</b></p>	<p>Orange bags will be collected <b>separately</b> to your <b>regular Household (non-recyclable) Collection</b>. This can be arranged through your <b>Local Council</b></p>
 <p>Rigid Sharps Container</p>	<p>Pharmaceutically contaminated; needles, syringes, blades and scissors</p>	<p>Rigid containers will be collected <b>separately</b> to your <b>regular Household (non-recyclable) Collection</b>. This can be arranged through your <b>Local Council</b>.</p> <p>Please only put rigid containers out for disposal on the day of collection and not the evening before</p>



Example of one brand of a UN approved sharps container used for the safe storage and disposal of all categories of sharps waste



Example of an orange sack for the disposal of infected healthcare waste such as infected bandages.

## Local Council Contact Details

Local Council	Contact Number
Torbay Council	01803 701316
Teignbridge District Council	0800 731 03 23
South Hams District Council	01803 861234 (option 1)
Exeter City Council	01392 665010 (option 1 then 4)
East Devon District Council	01395 571515
Mid Devon District Council	01884 255255
North Devon District Council	01271 374776
Torridge District Council	01237 428734
West Devon Borough Council	01822 813600 (option 1)
Plymouth City Council	01752 668000 (option 5)

# DISPOSING OF DOMESTIC HEALTHCARE WASTE

