

# Solid waste management guide for hospital and healthcare

Defining hospital responsibility of the waste generation to meet legislative and best practice requirements

Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.		Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, standards, codes and compliance
				Bin colours Australian standard AS 4123.7-2006 <i>Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings and designation requirements</i>	Off-site disposal methods		
Cardboard boxes (plain and waxed)	<p>Packaging container composed of cardboard materials</p> <p><i>Examples:</i> <i>Plain cardboard boxes, waxed cardboard boxes, cardboard inserts</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some wax cardboards cannot be recycled – please check with your contract before disposal</li> <li>If not, ask your supplier if they will take back waxed cardboard boxes for re-use</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	<p>Flatten and dispose until collection in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ waste disposal container</li> <li>✓ cardboard compactor</li> <li>✓ cardboard storage area</li> </ul>	<p>Body: Dark green or black</p> <p>Lid: Blue</p>	<p>Paper and cardboard recycling facility. Cardboard is pulped, cleaned, de-inked, drained and dried before being remade into cardboard.</p>	<p><a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">LG</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>
Commingled recyclables bottles, cans, cartons, paper (full)	<p>Materials that are capable of being remanufactured or re-used</p> <p><i>Examples:</i> <i>Glass bottles, milk cartons, aluminium cans, steel cans, paper, cardboard, newspaper, uncontaminated paper towels, plastics (coded 1–7)</i></p>	<a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	<p>Dispose in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ commingled recycling container</li> </ul>	<p>Body: Dark green or black</p> <p>Lid: Yellow</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> The department and SV do not support using the yellow lid in healthcare settings and are in discussions with Standards Australia about this</p>	<p>Materials recycling facility (MRF). Materials are sorted via various separating processes including magnetic steel removal, screening and air separation and prepared for recycling at a processing plant.</p>	<p><a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">LG</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>
Commingled recyclables bottles, cans, cartons (partial)	<p>Materials that are capable of being remanufactured or re-used</p> <p><i>Examples:</i> <i>Same as above however does not include paper, cardboard or paper towels</i></p>	<a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	<p>Dispose in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ commingled recycling container</li> </ul>	<p>Body: Dark green or black</p> <p>Lid: Yellow</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> The department and SV do not support using the yellow lid in healthcare settings and are in discussions with Standards Australia about this</p>	<p>Materials recycling facility (MRF). Materials are sorted via various separating processes including magnetic steel removal, screening and air separation and prepared for recycling at a processing plant.</p>	<p><a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">LG</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

1. Non-prescribed waste  
Recyclable materials

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Recyclable materials

Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Bin colours	Off-site disposal methods	Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, standards, codes and compliance
				Australian standard AS 4123.7-2006 <i>Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings and designation requirements</i>			
E-waste	E-waste consists of obsolete computer, electronic or hardware waste  <i>Examples:</i> <i>Computer parts, printers, photocopiers, mobile phones, pagers, monitors, televisions, electronic equipment, discarded electronic medical equipment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Donate to a registered charity</li> <li>✓ Contract out an e-waste recycler</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Search for a recycler</a></p>	Store until collection in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ skip</li> <li>✓ cage</li> </ul>	Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.  Body: Dark green or black Lid: White	E-waste recycler will dismantle electronic equipment and recycle all the parts, such as the hard plastic covering, copper in wires and steel components.	<a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">LG</a>	<a href="#">Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Services Act 1988 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Freedom of Information 1982 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Records Act 2001 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)</a> <a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>
Food/green organic waste	Food scraps, garden clippings and natural fibrous materials that are biodegradable and capable of being composted or put in worm farms  <i>Examples:</i> <i>Flowers, grass clippings, left-over food, vegetables scraps, grounds gardening maintenance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use food/green organics waste disposal service</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Search for a recycler</a></p>	Dispose in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ green organics container</li> <li>✓ compost bin</li> <li>✓ worm farm</li> </ul>	Body: Dark green or black Lid: Lime green	Food/green organics are taken to a composting facility	<a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">LG</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>

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Recyclable materials

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				Bin colours Australian standard AS 4123.7-2006 <i>Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings and designation requirements</i>			
Fluorescent tubes	Used, damaged fluorescent tubes  <i>Example: Fluorescent tubes</i>	<a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	Store until collection in: ✓ cardboard box that holds up to 100 fluorescent tubes		Florescent tube recycler. The mercury, glass, aluminium and phosphor powder will be separated using crush and separation technology.		
Mattresses	Old, damaged mattresses not required for use  <i>Examples: Mattresses, bases</i>	<a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	Store until collection in: ✓ skip ✓ cage		Mattress recycler will recondition fabric and foam and recycle extracted metals	<a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">LG</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a>  <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>
Paper	  <i>Examples: Newspaper, wrapping paper, cards, paper cups, envelopes, office paper, non-confidential files</i>	<a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	Dispose in: ✓ paper recycling bin	Body: Dark green or black Lid: Blue	Paper and cardboard recycling facility. Paper is pulped, cleaned, de-inked, drained and dried before being remade into paper.	<a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">LG</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a>  <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>

Note:

- Paper can also be added to your co mingled recycling container – please check with your contractor

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				Off-site disposal methods		
Confidential paper	<p>Paper documents that contain private, contractual, confidential or information identifying a person</p> <p><i>Examples: Patient records, medical records file, contracts, staff files</i></p>	<p>✓ Shred before disposing in commingled or paper recycling bin</p> <p><a href="#">Search for a recycler</a></p>	<p>Dispose in:                      ✓ confidential paper recycling bin (locked)</p>	<p>Body: Blue                      Lid: Blue</p>	<p><a href="#">SV</a>  <a href="#">LG</a>                      Hospital board, privacy officer</p>	<p><a href="#">Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic)</a>  <a href="#">Health Services Act 1988 (Vic)</a>  <a href="#">Freedom of Information 1982 (Vic)</a>  <a href="#">Health Records Act 2001 (Vic)</a>  <a href="#">Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)</a>  <a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a>  <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>                      Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

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Recyclable materials

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				Bin colours Australian standard AS 4123.7-2006 <i>Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings and designation requirements</i>			
Plastics (other)	Plastics that can not be put in commingled recycling bin  <i>Examples: Shrink wrap, plastic wrap, bubble wrap, polystyrene cups and boxes, expanded polystyrene and plastic bags</i>	<a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	Store until collection in: ✓ skip ✓ cage		Plastics will be granulated and recycled back into plastics	<a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">LG</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 Risk Management
Photographic waste  <i>Note:</i> • If photographic waste is not being recycled it must be managed in accordance with prescribed waste disposal	Photographic waste generating from X-ray developing equipment or X-ray film  <i>Examples: Fixer, developer and x-ray films</i>	<a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	Store until collection in: ✓ bag ✓ drum ✓ tank		Recycled at facility licensed by EPA	<a href="#">SV</a> <a href="#">EPA</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>
Toner/printer cartridges	Used, empty toner, printer cartridges from any type of printer, fax and photocopier  <i>Examples: Ink jet and laser printer Cartridges, Toner bottles, drum kits, fuser kits</i>	✓ Re-use programs  <a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	Store until collection in: ✓ printer cartridge recycling box (free service through some contractors and Close the Loop)		Cartridge re-use facility. Toner or printer cartridges are refilled for re-use. Cartridge recycling facility. Toner and printers are granulated for recycling.	<a href="#">SV</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>

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					Off-site disposal methods		
Batteries	Empty batteries  <i>Examples: Use in hearing aids, pagers, digital cameras, communication devices</i>	✓ Use rechargeable batteries  <a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>				SV	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>
Construction solid inert/demolition	Materials generated from building demolition, construction and refurbishment sites  <i>Examples: Concrete, wood, flooring, carpet, bricks</i>	✓ Recycle where possible ✓ Donate for re-use  <a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	Dispose in: ✓ recyclables skip ✓ general waste skip		EPA licensed landfill	SV <a href="#">Green Building Council</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>
Rubbish/general waste	Waste that is not capable of being composted, recycled, reprocessed or re-used  <i>Examples: Incontinence pads, disposable nappies, drained dialysis waste, plastic bags, masks, gloves</i>	✓ Request less packaging	Dispose in: ✓ general waste bin ✓ garbage compactor	Body: Dark green or black Lid: Red	EPA licensed landfill	EPA SV LG	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>

1. Non-prescribed waste  
Non recyclable materials

Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.

Note:  
• All construction waste should be separated and recycled where possible

1. Non-prescribed waste  
Non-recyclable materials

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				Bin colours Australian standard AS 4123.7-2006 <i>Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings and designation requirements</i>	Off-site disposal methods		
Redundant surplus equipment	Furniture and or equipment that are unable to be repaired or are at a surplus  <i>Examples: Chairs, tables, trolleys, beds, desks</i>	✓ Donate to a registered charity  <a href="#">Search for a recycler</a>	Store until collection in: ✓ skip ✓ cage			SV	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>
Sanitary waste	Sanitary waste generating in non-patient areas only  <i>Examples: Sanitary waste in ladies public and staff toilets</i>		Dispose in: ✓ sanitary waste bin		EPA licensed landfill	EPA	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>

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2. Prescribed waste

Clinical waste

Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.		Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, standards, codes and compliance
				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods Note: All prescribed industrial materials must be transported off site using an EPA vehicle and accompanied with a waste transportation certificate		
Sharps waste	<p>Objects or devices having sharp points or protuberances or cutting edges, capable of causing a penetrating injury to humans</p> <p><i>Examples: Syringes, broken glass, scalpel blades, pipettes</i></p>	<p>✓ Request less packaging to reduce contamination</p>	<p>Dispose in: ✓ clearly labelled puncture-resistant container</p> <p><i>The person who has used a sharps instrument must be responsible for immediate and safe disposal</i></p>	<p>Body: Yellow, rigid container Symbol: Black biological hazard Marked: Clinical waste</p> <p>Please also refer to Standards Australia: AS/NZ: 4031. <i>Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in healthcare areas, 1992</i></p> <p>AS/NZS 4261 <i>Reusable containers for the collection of sharp items used in human and animal medical, 1994/Amdt 1:1997</i></p>	<p>Disposal by incineration, autoclaving, microwaving, shredding or hammermill at an EPA-licensed facility</p>	EPA	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Environment Protection (Prescribed waste) Regulations 1998</a></p> <p><a href="#">Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group (ANZCWMIG)</a></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZ: 3816 <i>Management of clinical and related waste</i>, June 1998</p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZ: 4031. <i>Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in healthcare areas, 1992</i></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4261 <i>Reusable containers for the collection of sharp items used in human and animal medical. 1994/Amdt 1:1997</i></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

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				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods Note: All prescribed industrial materials must be transported off site using an EPA vehicle and accompanied with a waste transportation certificate		
Clinical waste	<p>For <a href="#">clinical waste definition</a> please refer to <i>Clinical waste code of practice, 5<sup>th</sup> edition</i></p> <p><i>Examples:</i> <i>Human tissue, gloves or bandages containing blood, cultures and specimens, disposable theatre wraps, swabs and soiled dressings</i></p>	<p>✓ Request less packaging to reduce contamination</p>	<p>Dispose in: ✓ clinical waste container, bucket or bags</p>	<p>Body: Yellow Lid: Yellow Bag: Yellow Symbol: Black biological hazard Marked: Clinical waste</p>	<p>Disposal by incineration, autoclaving, microwaving or shredding at an EPA-licensed facility</p>	EPA	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Environment Protection (Prescribed waste) Regulations 1998</a></p> <p><a href="#">Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group (ANZCWMIG)</a></p> <p>Australian Standards, AS/NZ: 3816 <i>Management of clinical and related waste</i>, June 1998</p> <p>Australian Standard AS 4123.7-2006 <i>Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings and designation requirements</i></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

- Note:
- Packaging, instruments, trays, and unused materials *must* be disposed of as general waste unless contaminated

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				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods Note: All prescribed industrial materials must be transported off site using an EPA vehicle and accompanied with a waste transportation certificate		
Anatomical waste (human body parts)	<p>Body parts taken during laboratory testing, surgery or autopsy and/or resulting from investigation or treatment of a patient</p> <p><i>Example: Limbs, organs, placenta, pathological specimens, biopsy specimens</i></p>		<p>Dispose in: ✓ clinical waste container, bucket or bags</p>	<p>Body: Yellow Lid: Orange Symbol: Black biological hazard Marked: Clinical waste</p>	<p>Disposal by incineration</p>	EPA	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Environment Protection (Prescribed waste) Regulations 1998</a></p> <p><a href="#">Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group (ANZCWMIG)</a></p> <p>Australian Standards, AS/NZ: 3816 <i>Management of clinical and related waste</i>, June 1998</p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

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2. Prescribed waste

Related waste

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				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off Site Disposal Methods Note: All prescribed industrial materials must be transported off site using an EPA vehicle and accompanied with a waste transportation certificate		
Cytotoxic waste	<p>All equipment and materials that may be contaminated with a cytotoxic drug during preparation, transport or administration of chemotherapy</p> <p><i>Examples: Disposable gloves and masks, dressing material, IV solution bags, absorbent pads</i></p>		Dispose in: ✓ cytotoxic waste container	<p>Body: Purple, ridged container</p> <p>Lid: Purple</p> <p>Bag: Purple</p> <p>Symbol: Cell undergoing telophase in white</p> <p>Marked: Cytotoxic waste</p>	<p>Waste is collected by an EPA-licensed contractor for incineration at an EPA-licensed facility</p>	<a href="#">EPA VWA</a>	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Dangerous Goods Act 1985 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Environment Protection (Prescribed waste) Regulations 1998</a></p> <p><a href="#">Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group (ANZCWMIG)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Work safe Code of Practice</a></p> <p>Australian Standard AS 4123.7-2006 <i>Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings and designation requirements.</i></p> <p>Australian Standards, AS/NZ: 3816 <i>Management of clinical and related waste</i>, June 1998</p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

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				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods Note: All prescribed industrial materials must be transported off site using an EPA vehicle and accompanied with a waste transportation certificate		
Cytotoxic waste (sharps)	All equipment and materials that may be contaminated with cytotoxic drug and may pierce a plastic bag  <i>Examples: Syringes, needles, drug vials, ampoules.</i>		Dispose in: ✓ cytotoxic waste container	Body: Purple ridged container Lid: Purple Symbol: Cell undergoing telophase in White Marked: Cytotoxic waste	An EPA-licensed contractor collects waste for incineration at an EPA-licensed facility.	<a href="#">EPA</a> <a href="#">VWA</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Dangerous Goods Act 1985 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Environment Protection (Prescribed waste) Regulations 1998</a> <a href="#">Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group (ANZCWMIG)</a> <a href="#">Work safe Code of Practice</a>  Australian Standards, AS/NZ: 3816 <i>Management of Clinical and Related Waste</i> , June 1998  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>

2. Prescribed waste  
Related waste

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2. Prescribed waste

Related waste

Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.		Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, standards, codes and compliance
				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods Note: All prescribed industrial materials must be transported off site using an EPA vehicle and accompanied with a waste transportation certificate		
Pharmaceutical waste	<p>Any expired or discarded pharmaceutical substance. Also includes filters or materials contaminated with pharmaceutical product.</p> <p><i>Examples: Expired pharmaceuticals, filters or materials that may be contaminated by pharmaceutical product, returned or no longer required pharmaceuticals</i></p>	<p>✓ Request less packaging to reduce contamination</p>	<p>Dispose in: ✓ collection boxes marked 'Pharmaceutical waste, for incineration only'</p>	N/A	<p>An EPA-licensed contractor collects waste for incineration at an EPA-licensed facility.</p>	<p><a href="#">TGA</a> <a href="#">DHS</a> <a href="#">EPA</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Environment Protection (Prescribed waste) Regulations 1998</a></p> <p><a href="#">Dangerous Goods Act 1985 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006</a></p> <p><a href="#">Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group (ANZCWMIG)</a></p> <p>Australian Standards, AS/NZ: 3816 <i>Management of Clinical and Related Waste</i>, June 1998</p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

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### 3. Solid radioactive waste

Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.		Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, standards, codes and compliance
				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods		
Radioactive material (contaminated)	<p>Waste material, including sharps contaminated with a radioisotope that arises from the medical or research use of radionuclides</p> <p><i>Examples: Linen if spills have occurred, incontinence pads, gloves, bench covers, blueys</i></p>		<p>Dispose in ✓ radioactive waste container</p> <p><i>Stage 1: Label with date and store within lead shielding and allowed to decay</i></p> <p><i>Stage 2: After it has decayed to a safe level, it is no longer deemed to be radioactive waste and can be disposed of as clinical waste, sharps waste or general waste</i></p>	<p>Stage 1: Body: Red Bag: Red Lid: Red Symbol: Black international radiation symbol Marked: Radioactive waste</p> <p>The department recommends all radioactive waste containers/bags be labelled with the date, radioactivity level at that date and name or initials of the waste generator</p>	<p>Taken to an approved landfill after it has decayed to a safe level</p> <p><b>Note:</b> All labels and symbols relating to radioactive wastes must be removed or marked over before disposal into clinical waste, sharps or, general waste container</p>	<p>Hospital nuclear medicine staff</p> <p><a href="#">Radiation Safety Program, DHS</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Radiation Act 2005 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Radiation Regulations 2007</a></p> <p>Refer to hospital radiation management plan (RMP) or standard operating procedures (SOP) manual</p> <p>Australian Standard AS 4123.7-2006 <i>Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings and designation requirements</i></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

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### 3. Solid radioactive waste

Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.		Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, standards, codes and compliance	
				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods			
Radioactive sharps (contaminated)	<p>Objects or devices having sharp points or protuberances or cutting edges, capable of causing a penetrating injury to humans and that contains radioactive material</p> <p><i>Examples: Syringes, broken glass, scalpel blades</i></p>		<p>Dispose in ✓ yellow sharps container within lead lined holder pending decay</p> <p><i>Stage 1: Label with date, disposers initials and store within lead shielding and allowed to decay</i></p> <p><i>Stage 2: After sharps container has been stored and decayed to a safe level, it is no longer deemed to be radioactive sharps waste can then be disposed of as sharps waste</i></p>		<p>The department recommends all yellow sharps nominated for collection of radioactive waste be labelled with the date, radioactivity level at that date and name or initials of the waste generator</p>	<p>Disposal by incineration, autoclaving, microwaving, shredding or hammermill at an EPA licensed facility</p> <p><b>Note:</b> All labels and symbols relating to radioactive wastes must be removed or marked over before disposal into clinical waste, sharps or, general waste container</p>	<p>Hospital nuclear medicine staff</p> <p><a href="#">Radiation Safety Program, DHS</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Radiation Act 2005 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Radiation Regulations 2007</a></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p> <p>Refer to hospital radiation management plan (RMP) or standard operating procedures (SOP) manual</p>

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3. Solid radioactive waste

Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.		Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, standards, codes and compliance
				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods		
Radioactive material (sealed sources)	Waste material containing radioisotope that arises from the medical or research use of radionuclides  <i>Examples: Brachytherapy calibration sources</i>		Store within lead shielding and allowed to decay for nominated length of time. De-identify or cross out all Radioactive Signs and dispose in general waste.		As approved by the department's radiation safety section	Hospital nuclear medicine staff  <a href="#">Radiation Safety Program, DHS</a>	<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Radiation Act 2005 (Vic)</a> <a href="#">Radiation Regulations 2007</a>  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>  Refer to hospital radiation management plan (RMP) or standard operating procedures (SOP) manual

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Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Note: This standard is for guidance. It is not a Victorian Government mandatory requirement. It may need to be modified to suit existing waste management arrangements for the facility.		Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, standards, codes and compliance
				Bin colours: <i>Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) ANZCWMIG</i>	Off-site disposal methods Note: All prescribed industrial materials must be transported off site using an EPA vehicle and accompanied with a waste transportation certificate		
Asbestos	<p>Three main types of asbestos are white, blue and brown</p> <p><i>Examples where asbestos is found:</i> Flooring, roofing, water pipes, underlay, wall cladding</p>		Identification, management, handling and removal of asbestos in a workplace is regulated by the VWA		An EPA-licensed contractor collects asbestos for disposal at an EPA-licensed disposal facility	EPA VWA	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Industrial Waste Management Policy (Prescribed Industrial waste) 1998</a></p> <p><a href="#">Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007</a></p> <p><a href="#">The transport and disposal of asbestos (EPA publication 364)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Worksafe Asbestos Bulletin. Audit Part 6 – Risk assessment prior to demolition</a></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

2. Prescribed waste  
Other prescribed wastes

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## Liquid waste management guide for hospital and healthcare

1. Prescribed waste							
Liquid waste	Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Off-site disposal method	Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, codes and compliance
	Chemical waste	<p>Chemical waste including waste generated from the use of chemicals in medical applications, domestic services, maintenance, laboratories, sterilisation processes and research processes</p> <p><i>Examples: Mercury, cyanide, formalin, gluteraldehyde, photochemical waste, toluene and xylene</i></p>		Disposal into sewer		<a href="#">EPA</a>	<p><a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Environment Protection (Prescribed waste) Regulations 1998</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Act 1958 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Dangerous Goods Act 1985 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006</a></p> <p><a href="#">Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth)</a></p> <p>Therapeutic Goods (Victoria) Act 1994</p> <p><a href="#">Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007</a></p> <p>Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i></p>

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Liquid radioactive waste	Waste type	Description of waste type and examples of waste generated	Available alternatives	On-site management	Off-site disposal method	Principal responsible agency	Legislation, policies, codes and compliance
	Liquid radioactive waste	Liquid radioactive waste generating from the administration of radioactive material  <i>Example: Iodine 125</i>		Disposal into sewer			<a href="#">Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)</a>  <a href="#">Radiation Act 2005 (Vic)(came into force on 1 September 2007)</a>  <a href="#">Radiation Regulations 2007</a>  Refer to hospital radiation management plan (RMP) or standard operating procedures (SOP) manual  Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 <i>Risk management</i>

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Abbreviation	Name	Website
<b>Government agencies</b>		
NHMRC	<a href="http://www.nhmrc.gov.au">National Health and Medical Research Council</a>	<a href="http://www.nhmrc.gov.au">www.nhmrc.gov.au</a>
The department	<a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au">Department of Human Services</a>	<a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au">www.dhs.vic.gov.au</a>
	<a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au">Victorian Government health information website</a>	<a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au">www.health.vic.gov.au</a>
SV	<a href="http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au">Sustainability Victoria</a>	<a href="http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au">www.sustainability.vic.gov.au</a>
EPA	<a href="http://www.epa.vic.gov.au">Environmental Protection Agency Victoria</a>	<a href="http://www.epa.vic.gov.au">www.epa.vic.gov.au</a>
RWMG	<a href="http://www.vicregions.asn.au">Regional Waste Management Group</a>	<a href="http://www.vicregions.asn.au">www.vicregions.asn.au</a>
TGA	<a href="http://www.tga.gov.au">Therapeutic Goods Administration</a>	<a href="http://www.tga.gov.au">www.tga.gov.au</a>
ACHS	<a href="http://www.achs.org.au">Australian Council of Healthcare Standards</a>	<a href="http://www.achs.org.au">www.achs.org.au</a>
VWA	<a href="http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au">Victorian WorkCover Authority</a>	<a href="http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au">www.workcover.vic.gov.au</a>
LG	<a href="http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au">Local Government Victoria</a>	<a href="http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au">www.dvc.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Healthcare-related agencies</b>		
VHA	<a href="http://www.vha.org.au">Victorian Healthcare Association</a>	<a href="http://www.vha.org.au">www.vha.org.au</a>
APHA	<a href="http://www.apha.org.au">Australian Private Hospitals Association</a>	<a href="http://www.apha.org.au">www.apha.org.au</a>
AHA	<a href="http://www.aushealthcare.com.au">Australian Healthcare Association</a>	<a href="http://www.aushealthcare.com.au">www.aushealthcare.com.au</a>
HPV	<a href="http://www.hpv.org.au">Health Purchasing Victoria</a>	<a href="http://www.hpv.org.au">www.hpv.org.au</a>
ANZCWMIG	<a href="http://www.anzcmig.org.au">Australia and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management and Industry Group</a>	
<b>Waste management-related agencies</b>		
WMAA	<a href="http://www.wmaa.asn.au">Waste Management Association Australia</a>	<a href="http://www.wmaa.asn.au">www.wmaa.asn.au</a>
<b>Waste-related magazines and journals</b>		
	<a href="http://www.insidewaste.com.au">Inside Waste Magazine</a>	<a href="http://www.insidewaste.com.au">www.insidewaste.com.au</a>
	<a href="http://www.standards.org.au">Australian Standards</a>	<a href="http://www.standards.org.au">www.standards.org.au</a>
<b>Healthcare waste specific</b>		
RUM	<a href="http://www.returnmed.com.au">Return Unwanted Medicines</a>	<a href="http://www.returnmed.com.au">www.returnmed.com.au</a>
<b>Waste minimisation resources</b>		
	<a href="http://www.closeheloop.com.au">Close the Loop</a>	<a href="http://www.closeheloop.com.au">www.closeheloop.com.au</a>

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# Hospital waste management legislation

## Objectives/drivers

- Minimise the impact of waste on human health and the environment
- Safer disposal practices for staff
- Identify cost savings through improved waste management practices
- Improve reputation
- Better community relations
- Compliance with regulations
- Improved OHS

## Legislation applicable to hospital waste management:

### [Environment Protection Act 1970 \(Vic\)](#)

The Environment Protection Act 1970 is the principle Victorian statute dealing with protection of the environment and management of waste. The purpose of the Act is stated as '*...to create a legislative framework for the protection of the environment in Victoria having regard to the principles of environmental protection*'. The Act is administered by the Environmental Protection Authority, and includes a range of instruments for protecting the environment, including waste management policies.

## Healthcare sector solid waste disposal-related references:

### Acts

- [Environment Protection Act 1970 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Information Privacy Act 2000 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Health Services Act 1988 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Health Records Act 2001 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Health Act 1958 \(Vic\)](#)
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- [Freedom of Information 1982 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 \(Vic\)](#)
- Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth)
- [Therapeutic Goods \(Victoria\) Act 1994](#)
- [Radiation Act 2005 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Dangerous Goods Act 1985 \(Vic\)](#)

### Regulations

- [Environment Protection \(Prescribed waste\) Regulations 1998](#)
- [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007](#)
- [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006](#)
- [Radiation Regulations 2007](#)
- [Health Records Regulations 2002](#)
- [Dangerous Goods \(Storage and Handling\) Regulations 2000](#)

### Healthcare sector-related codes

- [Code of practice for the management of clinical and related wastes, 5<sup>th</sup> edition \(2007\)](#)  
[Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group \(ANZCWMIG\)](#)
- [Work safe Codes of Practice](#)

### Healthcare sector-related Australian standards

- Australian Standard, *Mobile waste containers part 7: colours, markings, designation requirement* AS 4123.7-2006
- Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004 *Risk management*
- Australian Standard, AS/NZ: 3816 *Management of clinical and related waste*, June 1998

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- Australian Standard, AS/NZS 4261 *Reusable containers for the collection of sharp items used in human and animal medical*. 1994/Amdt 1:1997
- Australian Standard, AS/NZ: 4031. *Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in healthcare areas*, 1992

**State Government's *Environmental sustainability framework***

- [\*Towards zero waste strategy \(TZW\)\*](#)
- [\*Growing Victoria Together\*](#)
- [\*Our environment, our future\*](#)
- [\*Victorian greenhouse strategy\*](#)
- [\*Melbourne 2030\*](#)
- [\*The sustainability state\*](#)
- [\*Victoria's industrial waste strategy, zeroing in on waste\*](#)

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