

Clinical Waste Collection

A clinical waste container should be provided in each area of the practice where clinical waste is generated.

When selecting the appropriate clinical waste containers the following points should be considered:

- Clinical waste containers which have a good sealing lid
- Hands free operation where possible (e.g. foot pedal or sensor operated bin, available through medical suppliers)
- Rigid walled

Sharps containers are a particular type of clinical waste container, and in some settings wide mouthed sharps containers can be used for all clinical waste.

Clinical waste containers will:

- Be lined with yellow bags marked with a black biohazard symbol
- Have a biohazard sign affixed to the outside
- Be emptied when full and/or at the end of each day
- Be safely located away from the reach of children

Correct usage of containers

To ensure correct collection of clinical waste it may be appropriate to treat all forms of consulting room waste as though it were clinical waste.

Reference: RACGP *Infection Control Standards for Office Based Practices* (4th Edition)