

Types of healthcare waste by packaging colour

Colour of packaging: Orange

Appropriate healthcare waste management activities

Storage, alternative treatment or incineration

Waste types and List of Waste (LoW) code(s)

Infectious waste, not contaminated with chemicals or medicines:

- human healthcare (may contain sharps) - 18 01 03*
- animal healthcare (may contain sharps) - 18 02 02*
- municipal, separately collected fractions, not from healthcare or research-related sources (may contain sharps) - 20 01 99
- commercial, separately collected fractions of absorbents, wiping cloths and protective clothing contaminated by infectious substances - 15 02 02*

Colour of packaging: Yellow

Appropriate healthcare waste management activities

Storage and incineration

Waste types and LoW code(s)

Infectious waste, contaminated with chemicals:

- human healthcare - 18 01 03* and 18 01 06* or 18 01 07
- animal healthcare - 18 02 02* and 18 02 05* or 18 02 06

Infectious waste, medicinally contaminated (not cytotoxic or cytostatic):

- human healthcare (may contain sharps) - 18 01 03* and 18 01 09
- animal healthcare (may contain sharps) - 18 02 02* and 18 02 08

Colour of packaging: Red

Appropriate healthcare waste management activities

Storage and incineration

Waste types and LoW code(s)

Infectious anatomical waste, chemically preserved:

- human healthcare - 18 01 03* and 18 01 06* or 18 01 07
- animal healthcare - 18 02 02* and 18 02 05* or 18 02 06

Infectious anatomical waste, not chemically preserved:

- human healthcare - 18 01 03*
- animal healthcare - 18 02 02*

Non-infectious anatomical waste, chemically preserved:

- human healthcare - 18 01 02 and 18 01 06* or 18 01 07
- animal healthcare - 18 02 03 and 18 02 05* or 18 02 06

Non-infectious anatomical waste, not chemically preserved:

- human healthcare - 18 01 02
- animal healthcare - 18 02 03

Colour of packaging: Purple

Appropriate healthcare waste management activities

Storage and incineration

Waste types and LoW code(s)

Cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines:

- human healthcare - 18 01 08*
- animal healthcare - 18 02 07*
- municipal, separately collected fractions not from healthcare or research-related sources – 20 01 31*

Infectious waste, contaminated with cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines:

- human healthcare (may contain sharps) - 18 01 03* and 18 01 08* or 20 01 31*
- animal healthcare (may contain sharps) - 18 02 02* and 18 02 07* or 20 01 31*

Colour of packaging: Blue

Appropriate healthcare waste management activities

Storage and incineration

Waste types and LoW code(s)

Other waste medicines, excluding cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines - 18 01 09, 18 02 08 or 20 01 32

Colour of packaging: Black and yellow stripes (tiger bags)

Appropriate healthcare waste management activities

Storage, incineration or landfill. Compaction, where specifically permitted

Waste types and LoW code(s)

Non-infectious offensive waste:

- human healthcare - 18 01 04
- animal healthcare - 18 02 03
- municipal, separately collected fractions not from healthcare or research-related sources - 20 01 99

Commercial, separately collected fractions of absorbents, wiping cloths and protective clothing not contaminated by infectious substances - 15 02 03

Colour of packaging: Not specified

Appropriate healthcare waste management activities:

Storage, disposal or recovery at a suitably authorised facility

Waste types and LoW code(s):

Non-infectious sharps, not contaminated with chemicals or medicines:

- human healthcare - 18 01 01
- animal healthcare - 18 02 01
- not from healthcare or research-related sources - 20 01 99

Water-based developer and activator solutions - 09 01 01*

Water-based offset plate developer solutions - 09 01 02*

Solvent based developer solutions - 09 01 03*

Fixer solutions - 09 01 04*

Bleach and bleach fixer solutions - 09 01 05*

Photographic film and paper containing silver or silver compounds - 09 01 07

Photographic film and paper free of silver or silver compounds - 09 01 08

Amalgam waste from dental care - 18 01 10*

Lead foils from dental care - 15 01 04

Non-infectious gypsum wastes (for example, plaster casts and moulds) - 18 01 04 or 18 02 03

Infectious gypsum wastes (for example, plaster casts and moulds) - 18 01 03* or 18 02 02*

Accompanying notes:

An asterisk (*) at the end of a LoW code means the waste is hazardous.

As set out in [HTM 07 01](#) and this table, a waste stream may need to be provided with more than one LoW code and described to ensure that multiple components of the waste are adequately identified (for example, infectious sharp (18 01 03*) containing cytotoxic contamination (18 01 08*)). The presence of sharps in a waste stream should be identified through its written description and the use of appropriate packaging (lidded, rigid containers).

The appropriate waste management activities provided in the table are in line with those identified in HTM 07 01 for healthcare wastes. They will be reviewed in light of proven technological developments in the treatment of healthcare waste.

Written justification must be received and approved by the Environment Agency prior to the alternative treatment of wastes not identified in this table. This includes the alternative treatment of any infectious wastes contaminated with or containing medicines or chemicals, anatomical or non-infectious wastes. The written justification must demonstrate the treatment:

- is effective (including validation of worst case scenario wastes and conditions)
- is an efficient use of energy and raw materials
- enhances the recovery or recycling of the waste where possible
- does not impede the treatment of any other wastes and assesses the impact of any emissions from the facility (to air and water)

18 01 02 non-hazardous waste blood bags and blood products may be sent for alternative treatment if the plant has been specifically permitted and validated for the treatment of this waste type.

18 01 04 non-hazardous offensive waste may be sent for alternative treatment if the plant has been specifically permitted and validated for the treatment of this waste type and the waste is treated for the purpose of recovery.

For single use instruments, the LoW code, appropriate management activity and packaging will depend on:

- the material of construction
- whether there is a risk of sharps
- whether the waste is infectious

Where possible, non-infectious metal instruments should be sent for metal reclamation and recovery. See HTM 07 01 for further information.

In accordance with Appendix A, [Guidance on the classification and assessment of waste \(WM3\)](#), waste medicinal products from the manufacture and supply of pharmaceuticals should be classified under the medicine codes in chapter 18 of the LoW.