



TOOLKIT 10 • WASTE & SHARPS • TOOL 1 OF 5

Healthcare Waste — Segregate at the Point of Generation

Four bins, four colours, one rule: it goes in the right bin the moment it is waste, or it never will

WHICH BIN?

GENERAL Black bag	INFECTIOUS Yellow bag	SHARPS Yellow puncture-proof box	PHARMACEUTICAL / CHEMICAL Brown container
Paper, packaging, food, flowers, non-contaminated gloves and masks, office waste	Anything with blood or body fluids: dressings, swabs, gloves after contact, tubing, bags, lab samples, isolation-room waste, pathological waste (separately)	Needles, syringes with needles, blades, lancets, broken glass, ampoules. Never recap. Fill to ¾, close, label.	Expired or unused medicines, cytotoxics (separately, purple), disinfectants, laboratory chemicals, mercury

Never in the general bin: anything sharp; anything with blood; medicines. When in doubt: yellow. Bags filled to ¾, tied, labelled with ward and date. Sharps boxes never on the floor, never above shoulder height, never reopened.

Colours follow the WHO scheme (Safe management of wastes from health-care activities, 2nd ed.). Adapt to national regulations before printing and note the change on this sheet.

ASF standards: Standard 3 — waste management (segregation at source); Universal Floor — staff safety