



Dental Medical Waste Management

Type	Treatment or Disposal	Storage Time
Sharps	Mail-back, pick-up by a registered medical waste hauler, or onsite treatment by autoclave or a CDPH-approved alternative treatment.	30 days, when full and ready for disposal. (HSC §118285). Or, up to 90 days if ≤ 32°F (HSC§118280).
Anesthetic Carpules	If empty (=trace), place in trash.	
	If pourable (=residual) amount remains, manage as pharmaceutical waste.	See pharmaceuticals.
	If blood has been aspirated, place in sharps or biohazardous container.	See sharps or red-bag, as applicable.
Red-Bag Blood & OPIM	Mail-back, registered medical waste hauler, onsite autoclave or CDPH-approved alternative treatment.	If <20 lbs. per month, 30 days @ >32°F, 90 days @ ≤ 32°F (HSC §118280).
Pharmaceuticals	Mail-back, or registered medical waste hauler.	90 days, when full and ready for disposal, or at least once per year (HSC§118280).
Teeth (if the dentist deems infectious)	Mail-back, registered medical waste hauler, onsite autoclave or CDPH-approved alternative treatment. HSC§118220.	See red-bag.
Teeth with amalgam	Not medical waste.	Universal waste.
Combined waste	May combine all waste streams, except pharmaceuticals and amalgam. Sharps must be in a sharps container.	See red-bag.

Do not place pharmaceutical waste in devices intended for red-bag and sharps waste, since it must be incinerated.
For mail-back systems, please ensure that separate containers are used for pharmaceutical waste.

Onsite alternative treatment technology methods may or may not require registration and/or a permit.
Check with your local enforcement agency for medical waste.



www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste

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