

Waste Management

Long-term care homes should have written policies and procedures for the management of waste within the home. These policies and procedures should include information on:

- Types of waste generated in the home and the appropriate management of each type including pick-up, packaging and storage
- Routine collection of waste
- Protective equipment necessary when handling waste
- Education programs for all staff involved in waste management.

Each home should ensure that they comply with provincial and local environmental and health regulations for waste management. Consultation should be sought with the [Region of Peel – Environment, Transportation and Planning Services](#) for any concerns related to waste management.

Most waste in LTCHs can be separated into three categories: general waste, biomedical waste and recyclable waste. [Legislation](#) requires that biomedical waste be handled and disposed of in such a way as to avoid transmission of potential infections. All staff should receive annual education on the management of each of the categories of waste and the home's policies.

WHAT CAN GO INTO REGULAR GARBAGE	HOW TO DISPOSE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soiled dressings and incontinence products, 2. Sponges, 3. Catheters, 4. Disposable pads, gloves and masks, 5. Dialysis wastes (tubing, filters, disposable towels and sheets, 6. IV bags and tubing, 7. Casts, 8. Gastric and nasal tubes, and 9. Empty and rinsed colostomy bags. 	<p>Double bag using opaque (not transparent) bags</p> <p>Call 905-791-7800, ext. 7932</p>

WHAT SHOULD NOT GO INTO REGULAR GARBAGE	HOW TO DISPOSE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any sharps (needles, broken glass ampoules), 2. Unused narcotic medications and containers, 3. Medication bags, tubing and syringes used to administer chemotherapy or antiviral medication, and 4. Unused pills. <p>For additional information contact: Region of Peel Wasteline at 905-791-9499. Caledon residents can call 905-584-2216.</p>	<p>Place sharps or unused narcotics in an approved biomedical waste container.</p> <p>Supplies used to administer chemotherapy or antiviral medication should be placed in a biomedical waste container.</p>

*In Compliance with Region of Peel, Waste Management Policies. 905 791-7800
www.peelregion.ca*

Homes should choose licensed waste hauling, treatment and disposal firms for biomedical waste since the waste generator is held directly accountable for ensuring all stages of transportation and disposal are carried out in a safe and legal manner.

The Infection Control Committee should approve any changes to the waste management program prior to implementation in the facility.

Recommendations for Waste Handling
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local municipal regulations on waste segregation must be adhered to. 2. Waste generated in health care settings is no more hazardous than household waste. 3. Segregating sharps waste and disposing in an approved biohazard container is required so it does not result in injuries by waste industry workers. 4. Package waste to contain it in a leak-proof container that can be disposed of or cleaned after emptying. 5. Empty waste frequently and store in a manner that protects it prior to pick up/disposal.

6. Waste handlers should wear protective apparel and be offered Hepatitis B vaccination.

Source: Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (CCAR). [Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Long Term Care, home and Community care including Health Care Offices and Ambulatory Clinics](#). June 2007

References:

Public Health Ontario. Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee. Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections (revised May 2012).

http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Best_Practices_Environmental_Cleaning_2012.pdf

Government of Ontario. Guideline C-4. *The Management of Biomedical Waste in Ontario*. Environmental Protection Act, SO 1990, Part V, Sections 19 and 27; Part XVII, Section 197, latest revision November 2009.

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@ene/@resources/documents/resource/std01_079528.pdf

Canadian Standards Association Z317.10-01
Handling of Waste Materials in Health Care Facilities and Veterinary Health Care Facilities. 2003

Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (CCAR). [Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Long Term Care, home and Community care including Health Care Offices and Ambulatory Clinics](#). June 2007