

Ebola Waste Management Requirements and Packaging Procedures



Background

Based on 33 years of experience serving hospitals through public health threats, including Ebola and COVID-19, our Stericycle team is equipped to support your readiness and waste management needs.

Waste generated from the care of patients diagnosed with Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola) poses unique challenges and requires communication and planning between both our customers and Stericycle due to classification as a “Category A” infectious material by the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and the amounts of waste generated during patient care. We are committed to assisting our customers with disposal of this waste stream.

Your cooperation with the following requirements is key to ensuring the safety of all employees involved from initial waste generation to final disposal. This document provides information for management of Ebola waste only; please contact us if you have other Category A waste.



IF YOUR FACILITY HAS A SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED EBOLA CASE

Immediately contact your local/state health department and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Next, contact Stericycle through your account manager or by contacting Customer Experience at **866-338-5120** or **Maecustomersupport@stericycle.com**.

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Containers/Supplies Needed for Ebola Waste Management

When managing Ebola waste in 2014, we learned that one patient will generate eight-to-ten 55-gallon drums of waste per day. Please plan accordingly. The following are key items required for proper packaging and management of Ebola waste and correspond to the requirements of both the DOT in special permit 16279 (SP 16279) and our disposal vendor:

Plastic drums to use as outer packaging, 55 gallons in capacity or less, certified at a minimum to the PGII level for solids and liquids

- If you have good quality, cardboard “Green drums” in stock, these are acceptable. However, green drums are no longer available from Stericycle.

Line each drum with an inner plastic film bag that is certified by their manufacturer as having passed ASTM tests as prescribed in SP 16279; these bags are used as primary AND secondary packaging, ensure secondary bag is large enough to fit primary bag and contents

Note: These are NOT the same as the red bags supplied by Stericycle for use in other medical waste packaging, which cannot be substituted for these bags.

Single-use/Disposable Sharps Containers (minimum of 1 per patient room)

Closure mechanism for plastic film bags – zip ties or tape

2 inches of absorbent material in bottom of drum

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered hospital disinfectant that is recommended by the CDC for use as a disinfectant for the Ebola virus (will be further referenced as “Disinfectant”)

- Disinfectant list can be found here:
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-l-disinfectants-use-against-ebola-virus>

Plastic overpack drums, 95 gallons in capacity or less, certified at a minimum to the PGII level for solids and liquids

- If you have concerns on space, these can be supplied upon pickup
- This drum is only to be used for the containment of the outer packaging specified in the list above; if you have larger items to dispose of, contact us for assistance

Labels for the outer packaging:

Please do not label waste with the labels below until after a positive Ebola diagnosis has been confirmed.

UN2814, Infectious Substances Affecting Humans, 6.2

Infectious Substance DOT marking

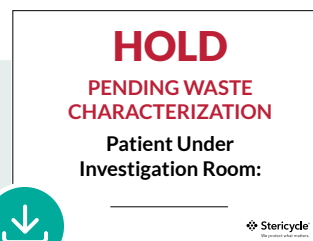
Label with special permit number “SP16279”

On Lid: “**DO NOT OPEN INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES AFFECTING HUMANS**”



Do not put above-listed labels on waste containers until a positive Ebola case is confirmed. There is no need to categorize waste as Ebola proactively.

Download and print the sign at right, then affix to waste containers while patient diagnosis is pending.



Stericycle's Ebola Waste Management Kit and Ebola Waste Label Kit

Should you need supplies, contact Stericycle Customer Experience to order an Ebola Waste Management kit, which includes the following waste supplies required for ~24 hours of patient care:

Quantity	Supply Item
8	55 gallon drums
16	Plastic film bags that meet requirements of SP 16279
1	Single Use Disposable Sharps Container
16	Zip Ties
30 lbs.	Absorbent Material (vermiculite)
1	Ebola Waste Management Requirements and Packaging Procedures document

Once a positive Ebola diagnosis has been confirmed, please contact Stericycle Customer Experience to order and rapidly ship an Ebola Waste Container Label kit. Additionally, upon confirmation of an Ebola diagnosis, Stericycle will arrange for 95-gallon overpack drums to be delivered per the packaging guidelines below.

1 Label Kit

- 16 each: UN2814, DOT marking, and SP16279 permit labels
- 8 "Do not open" lid labels

Call **866-338-5120** or email
Maecustomersupport@stericycle.com

Waste Packaging Guidelines

The following combines requirements from SP 16279, our disposal vendor's guidance, and best practices. Make sure you are utilizing proper personal protective equipment (PPE) per your facility's requirements. Using the supplies listed above **ONLY**, packaging is to occur as follows:

Place soft waste or sealed sharps containers into a primary bag.

Disposable sharps containers should be used in all suspected/confirmed Ebola areas and cases. If a reusable sharps container is inadvertently used that container shall also be sealed and disposed of inside the bags with the Ebola waste, **DO NOT** place a container on a sharps cart with other reusable sharps containers.

Securely tie the primary bag using a single knot, zip ties, tape, or a combination of these methods to prevent the release of material from the bag if inverted.

Use EPA-registered disinfectant on the exterior surface of the primary bag.

Place the primary bag into a secondary bag.

Securely tie the secondary bag using a single knot, zip ties, tape, or a combination of these methods to prevent the release of material from the bag if inverted.

Use EPA-registered disinfectant on the exterior surface of the secondary bag.

Add at least 2 inches of absorbent material (Vermiculite, for example) to the bottom of the 55-gallon drum. Then, place the double-bagged waste into the drum.

Close outer packaging following the DOT specified closure instructions.

Remove any potential contamination on the exterior surface of the outer packaging with Disinfectant.

Label the outer packaging with provided labels as follows:

On 2 opposing sides: UN2814, Infectious Substances Affecting Humans (Ebola), 6.2

On 2 opposing sides: Infectious Substance DOT marking

On 2 opposing sides: Label with special permit number "SP16279"

On Lid: **"DO NOT OPEN INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES AFFECTING HUMANS"**

For an unconfirmed case only – label as "pending waste characterization" with a temporary label, do not use labels provided for waste from unconfirmed cases until confirmed.

Plastic overpack 96-gallon drums will be brought upon waste pickup to prepare waste for transport.



Failure to follow these instructions prohibits pickup of the waste.

Storage Considerations

- If the double-bagged waste cannot be immediately placed into a 55-gallon drum, it should be placed on a solid non-porous surface in a secure room close to the point of use. This area should be clearly labeled as a storage area for Ebola waste.
- Store the full Ebola waste containers separate from other regulated medical waste in a secure area, preferably isolated and with limited access.

Note: If a trailer is needed to store waste and space is available for a trailer, please contact Stericycle.

Disposal and Recordkeeping

Stericycle will arrange for compliant transportation and disposal. Shipping papers will be provided for customer records at time of pickup and once waste is disposed.

Additional Resources

- Additional information can be obtained in the Managing Solid Waste Contaminated with a Category A Infectious Substance Government issued document: https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/2022-06/Cat%20A%20Waste%20Planning%20Guidance_Final_2022_06.pdf
- A copy of the special permit, SP 16279 can be found here: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/transporting-infectious-substances/6791/sp-16279.pdf>

Please contact Stericycle's Customer Experience team for urgent needs or questions.

Phone: 866-338-5120 | email: MAECustomerSupport@stericycle.com



Thank you for being a Stericycle customer. We take pride in caring for the health and well-being of the people we serve, and the environments in which care is provided.