

Examples of Items Exempt from the Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations

This document provides a few examples of items that are not considered regulated medical waste under the [Virginia Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations \(9VAC20-121\)](#). Additional criteria for regulated medical waste and the full list of exemptions are specified in [9VAC20-121-90](#) of the regulations.

Items Exempt When Empty and Not Subject to the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard (9VAC20-121-90.D.8)

The following discarded items are not regulated medical wastes when they are empty and not subject to the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard. "Empty" means wastes have been removed from a container using practices commonly employed to remove materials of that type, such as pouring, pumping, or aspirating. An empty item may still have residue in it. However, it may be subject to the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard (and considered regulated medical waste) if it could potentially release liquid or semi-liquid blood or potentially infectious materials, or if it could potentially release caked dried blood or potentially infectious materials.



urine collection bags and tubing



suction canisters



suction tubing



IV solution bags and tubing



colostomy bags and ileostomy bags



urostomy bags



hemovac

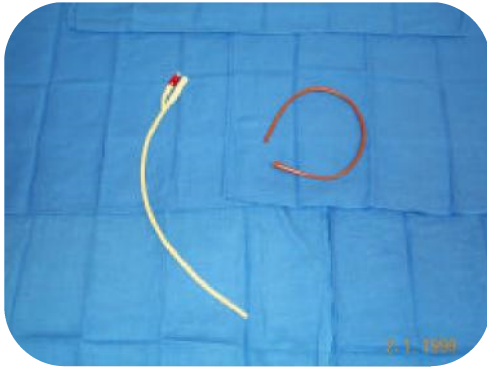


urine specimen cup

Additional items (not pictured) that are subject to the conditions of this exemption include plastic fluid containers, enteral feeding containers and tubing, and urine bottles.

Items Exempt When Not Subject to the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard (9VAC20-121-90.D.9)

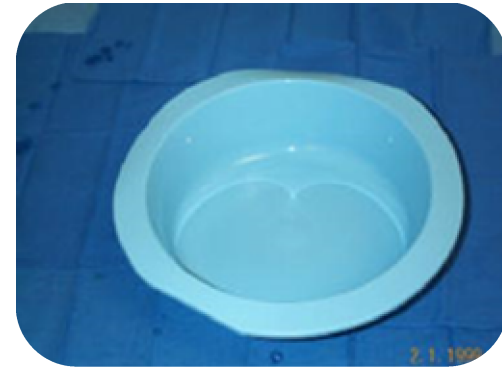
The following discarded items are not regulated medical waste when they are not subject to the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard. An item may be subject to the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard (and considered regulated medical waste) if it could potentially release liquid or semi-liquid blood or potentially infectious materials, or if it could potentially release caked dried blood or potentially infectious materials.



urinary catheters



nasogastric tube



bedpans



oxygen tubing



ventilator tubing



IV spike

Additional items (not pictured) that are subject to the conditions of this exemption include suction catheters, plastic cannula, oxygen cannula, enema bags and tubing, enema bottles, thermometer probe covers, irrigating feeding syringes, and urinals.

Regulated Sharps (9VAC20-121-90.B.2.d and 90.D.13)

The following items **are** regulated medical wastes:

- Sharps likely to be contaminated with a pathogen or that may become contaminated with a pathogen through handling or during transportation and also capable of cutting or penetrating skin or a packaging material. Examples may include: needles, syringes, scalpels, broken glass, culture slides, culture dishes, broken capillary tubes, broken rigid plastic, and exposed ends of dental wires.
- Contaminated sharps generated through veterinary practice, acupuncture, cosmetology, ear and body piercing, nail salons, and tattoo establishments.
- Sharps drop boxes used to centrally collect household sharps for disposal as a convenience to the public



Exempt Sharps (9VAC20-121-90.D.2 and 90.D.6)

The following items **are not** regulated medical wastes:

- Household sharps (needles, syringes with attached needles, lancets, auto injectors, pen needles, and any other devices used to penetrate the skin for the delivery of medications AND are derived from households through self-care, rather than under the care of a home health care professional or at a health care facility). These items should be placed in opaque, leak proof, puncture resistant containers that are closed, sealed, and labeled for home use before disposing in the regular trash.
- Discarded unused (uncontaminated) sharps contained in the original liner and outer packaging



Regulated Medical Wastes (9VAC20-121-90.B)

Items listed in 9VAC20-121-90.B are regulated medical wastes. The following photographs are examples of some items that are regulated medical wastes:



waste packaged as regulated medical waste



items that could potentially release liquid or semi-liquid blood or body fluids

