

Recycle For The Cure

RED OAK SANITATION

How to deal with Biomedical Waste as a homeowner.

With home care and in home medical self-care on the rise, many residents of Georgia find themselves dealing with biomedical waste. Properly managing biomedical waste protects the health of the patient and their family members, as well as, everyone else and the environment. Georgia State law allows for the disposal of medical waste with in your household trash, but only if the medical waste is generated as a result of self-care or treatment of family members in their own home.

There are very specific requirements through regulations that provide the blueprint for disposing of the medical waste that residents must follow in order to dispose of the biomedical waste in their household trash. To comply with state laws and regulations, follow these guidelines:

- ◆ If you are disposing of full biomedical containers, such as colostomy or urostomy bags, you must dispose of all urine or fecal matter; through a wastewater treatment system or a properly functioning septic tank system. In other words, you must empty the contents of the container, such as the colostomy bag, into a toilet and flush. The empty container can then be placed into a sealable plastic bag and disposed of with your regular household trash.
- ◆ If you are disposing of “sharps,” which include: medical syringes, hypodermic needles and lancets, you must place the sharps into a sealed, **puncture-proof container** before disposing of that container with your household trash.



Follow these steps:

1. Place used sharps in a **puncture-proof plastic container**, such as a bleach or detergent bottle with a screw-top lid or a sharps container (sold at local pharmacies).
2. When full, screw the lid on tightly and tape it in place with duct tape.
3. With permanent marker, clearly label the containers “Bio-Hazard.”
4. Place the container into your household trash cart for collection.

To learn more about Georgia State regulations on the disposal of biomedical wastes, go to <http://rules.sos.state.ga.us/docs/391/3/4/15.pdf>.

