



GreenHealthcare

Examples of good practices in Irish hospitals to reduce risk waste & increase recycling...



In Wards



- Only using healthcare risk waste bins in the dirty utility room
- Removing healthcare risk waste bins from:
 - The clean utility room
 - Public wards/ public areas
- Recycling bins throughout wards.



In Isolation Rooms



- General waste & recycling bins in certain isolation rooms (for certain contact spread – non-droplet/airborne) as well as risk waste bin.
- Keep material stocks low in isolation rooms (to avoid being thrown out unused later).



Throughout the Hospital



- Reclassifying certain wastes as not being healthcare risk waste e.g. uncontaminated: gowns, table covers, face masks, etc.
- Using smaller sized risk waste bins, where appropriate.
- Recycling bins within the theatres.
- Recycling bins throughout waiting rooms and other public areas.



For guides on reducing risk waste and increasing recycling, as well as case studies of the savings Irish hospitals have made, see www.greenhealthcare.ie

What is NOT healthcare risk waste

Note: Uncontaminated* is any item that is not contaminated with blood or certain bodily fluids (like pus, sputum or peritoneal fluid).

Bodily fluids like faeces, urine, & breast milk are not considered risk waste.



Here is a list of items that are NOT healthcare risk waste if UNCONTAMINATED*^S



General

Packaging
Paper
Newspaper
Magazines
Used paper towels



Patient care items

- Gloves, aprons, gowns, masks, disposable table/bed covers;
- Empty IV bags (ex tips), plastic bottles, ventilator & oxygen tubing, nebuliser sets;
- Stoma bags, urinary drainage bags & tubing, urinary catheters, enteral feeding bags/sets, etc.



Incontinence wear & nappies

Note: other than those from a patient with known/suspected enteric pathogens, e.g. salmonella, clostridium difficile



^S Please Note

Waste from all sources, other than isolation rooms or other infectious sources. Check your own hospital policy for isolation rooms - some hospitals do not classify all waste from all isolation rooms as healthcare risk waste, while others do.

Based on National Guidelines