

# Medical Waste Bins

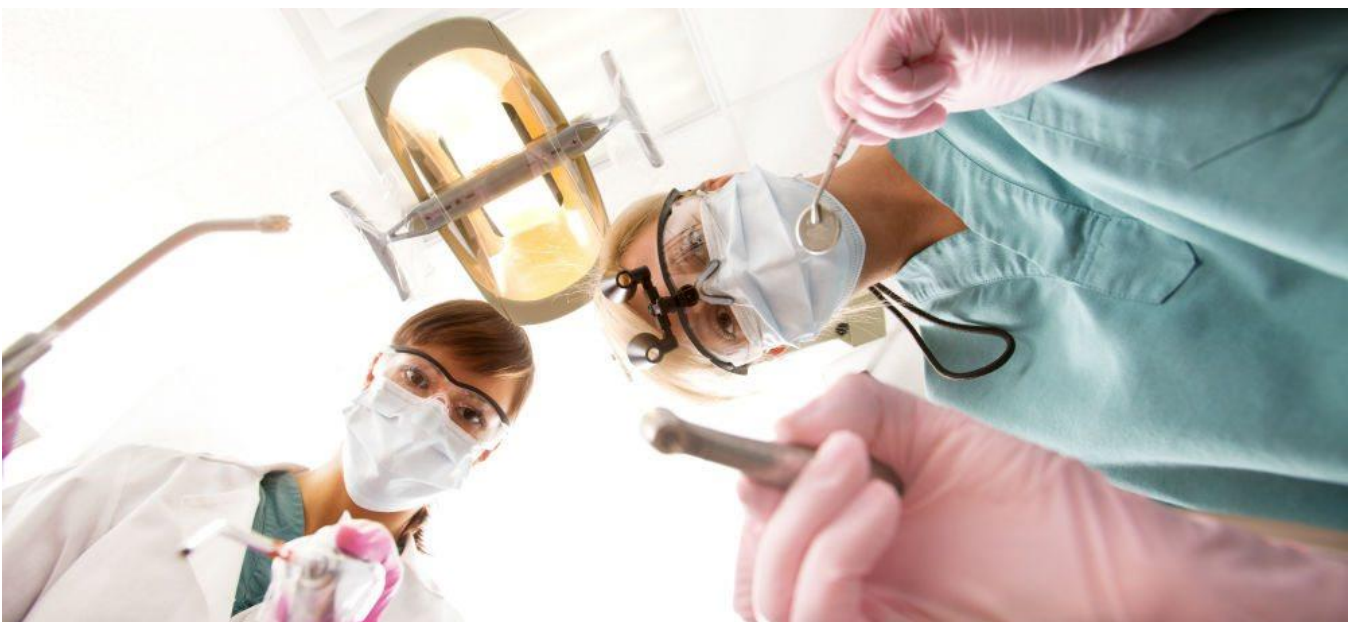
*Free Business Owners Guide To Arranging Medical Waste Bins*

  
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.com.au



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# Dear Business Owner

Choosing a medical waste collection company isn't easy because you're bombarded with misleading advertising, confusing claims, and simply bad information.

From super-low prices and high-pressure sales to unlicensed operators and hidden fees, how do you ever find a qualified, competent, and secure clinical waste services company?

You start by reading this Consumer's Guide. In this fact-filled booklet, you'll discover how to avoid medical waste rip-offs, six mistakes to avoid when choosing a supplier, and also guidance on whether a medical waste bin is actually right (or even required for your business)!



We wrote this guide to help you better understand clinical waste bin services. Now, with this information, you can make an informed, intelligent decision.

If you have any questions about medical waste or any other waste or recycling service please reach out to us.

You're invited to call us at 1300 927 837 or at [info@waster.com.au](mailto:info@waster.com.au). We've dedicated our business to educating consumers, we'll be happy to help you in every way.

Cordially,  
Mr Waster





#### About Waster.com.au

Waster is an Australian waste and recycling company specialised in helping small and medium companies.

We provide all waste and recycling services such as medical waste, general waste bins and all recycling options.

We are different to other suppliers as we operate on flexible 30 day agreements – so you are never locked in to a contract that does not suit you. We also specialise in reducing your costs by boosting recycling. You can email us at [info@waster.com.au](mailto:info@waster.com.au).

## How to avoid 4 medical waste rip-offs!

**RIP-OFF #1: NO NEED FOR SEPARATE SHARPS COLLECTION.** Some suppliers will seek to charge extra for collection of sharps containers – you should be able to place a sealed sharps container in a medical waste bin and have it collected at no extra cost.

**RIP-OFF #2: BILLING BY WEIGHT.** Some companies will bill based on weight in your bin or extra if above a certain low weight. You can thus end up paying more than you had bargained for.

**RIP-OFF #3: OVER SERVICING.** How often do you really need your bin serviced. You should ensure the bin is only picked up at the frequency you require – whether it is daily or monthly.

**RIP-OFF #4: HIDDEN COSTS OR PRICE INCREASES** If you sign a multi year contract for medical waste bin services you may find yourself caught out by increasing prices or gradual increases that soon add up. Be careful with the small print in any long term contract that you consider signing.

## 6 costly misconceptions about confidential paper shredding

### **MISCONCEPTION #1: The cost is prohibitive for a medical waste bin**

No. A bin swap-over costs c. \$60-90 in most areas throughout Australia – this certainly is worth the cost to be in compliance with EPA legislation.

### **MISCONCEPTION #2: Leaving a bin out for collection is risky**

No. A medical waste bin should be swapped over inside your clinic or surgery for a new bin. The bin should not be left outside.

**MISCONCEPTION #3: I can dispose of medical waste in my general waste bin.** No. This is certainly a bad idea and against EPA legislation. If a medical waste bin is disposed of in general waste – multiple health and safety issues arise. The entire garbage truck would be classified as medical waste and would involve large disposal costs.

### **MISCONCEPTION #4: I can dispose of pharmaceuticals in my medical waste bin**

No. Medical waste is treated via autoclave – i.e. where it is treated at extremely high temperatures. Pharmaceuticals / medicines should be treated via incineration and require a pharma bin service.



### **Your requirements in handling medical waste**

it is essential that clinical and related wastes are properly segregated, packaged, labelled, handled and transported to minimise risk to waste handlers and the community, such as needle stick injuries and transmission of infectious diseases. All sharps and other waste containers should meet the specific Australian Standards requirements. Clinical and related waste must be segregated and identified by colour coding and marked according to the following:

- **Colour code:** yellow
- **Wording:** clinical waste displayed on at least 2 sides
- **Sign:** black biological hazard
- **Symbol:** as above.

*"Where small quantities of clinical and related waste are being generated, effective storage can be achieved using 120/240 litre mobile garbage bin (wheelie bins)"*



**MISCONCEPTION #5: A medical waste bin is suitable to dispose of x-rays and other documents**

No. Medical waste is treated by an autoclave – where high temperatures kill any bacteria etc. This is not a suitable treatment for paper, x-rays or any confidential information. Information and documentation of this nature should be disposed of in a confidential shredding bin.

**MISCONCEPTION #6: My supplier will charge too much for replacement sharps containers.**

In some cases – the price your medical waste supplier charges may be excessive in this regard. You should check pricing from third party suppliers in this area. You will be able to buy multiple new sharps containers of suitable sizes direct from wholesalers.

**Medical waste disposal and treatment is described in NSW by The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997; Schedule 1 Scheduled Activities – Clause 50 Other definitions, defines clinical waste as follows. All states and territories have equivalent legislation.**



## 5 questions to ask when choosing a medical waste provider

### **Value versus price**

*We are not going to dress it up and make it look like a luxury product – medical waste bins are one of those necessary evils in life like paying your taxes. The smart decision is to know some simple facts and choose a reputable provider so you avoid any long term issues.*

*Minimising any impact to your business operations is vital. Thus regular servicing will ensure:*

- Peace of mind
- No risk to business continuity
- Simplify systems and processes in your office

### **Cheapest in the long run**

*A good quality service will be the cheapest option in the long run for your business and will save you money.*

*A good supplier should ensure – no hidden extras, no extra call out fees and prices that stay reasonable stable year after year.*

### **We have covered what to avoid and common misconceptions**

but what are the questions you should ask a medical waste company before hiring them?

#### **QUESTION #1: Can you provide pricing now?**

•A reputable company should be able to provide pretty accurate pricing on the phone or in person – i.e. based on number of bins, access and frequency. They should not really need to do a site inspection or come to visit you to provide a “free quote”. There will be some caveats such as access and height restrictions.

#### **QUESTION #2: Do I need to sign a long term contract?**

•Many companies will want you to sign a long term – and sometimes multi year contract for them to start providing bin services. Think – is there any real benefit to you; the customer in this context. As a bin company does not have to provide any expensive equipment etc to you – there should really be no need for a long term contract.

#### **QUESTION #3: Do I get charged by weight in the bin?**

•Some companies may try to charge extra for kilograms in the bin above a certain weight. This can add volatility to your pricing and can make what seems a cheap service – that bit more expensive.

#### **QUESTION #4: Are you properly licensed?**

•This is vital – if the supplier is not licensed, then you really are risking your business. The company should be able to describe their operations and facilities – and provide evidence of certification etc.

#### **QUESTION #5: Can I get a discount if I book other services?**

•Yes. Of course you should ask for a better price and also a discount if you book other services such as recycling or general waste bins.



## Who should be using medical waste bins?

**According to the Victoria EPA** - Generators of clinical and related waste include (but are not restricted to):

- acupuncture clinics
- brothels
- collections of sharps and clinical and related waste from commercial buildings and workplaces (e.g. First aid waste)
- dental practitioners
- emergency services
- funeral parlours
- home healthcare
- long-term healthcare facilities
- needle exchange programs
- pathology laboratories
- schools
- tattooists
- universities
- veterinarians.

Hospitals and other larger-scale waste generators should refer to the Code of Practice for specific guidance on meeting waste management requirements”.

### **Clinical waste includes:**

- A. Sharps
- B. a clinical specimen such as blood or tissue
- C. A specimen of urine or faeces taken for laboratory testing includes specimens for analysis to ascertain disease status.
- D. A laboratory culture
- E. Human tissue
- F. Tissue, carcasses or other waste arising from animals used for laboratory investigation or for medical or veterinary research other than psychological testing.
- G. Human blood or body fluids other than urine or faeces.
- H. Materials or equipment containing human blood or body fluids
- I. Urine or faeces, or materials or equipment containing urine or faeces, where there is visible blood
- J. Waste from patients known to have, or suspected of having a communicable disease





When you run a business – being locked into an unsuitable multi year contract is the last thing you need. Waster operates on flexible 30 day agreements – which basically means that if you are not happy with our service, or it just does not suit you anymore – you can cancel by giving us 30 days written notice.

Waster provides low cost waste and recycling services to small and medium Australian businesses.

You can book all your required services such as grease trap cleaning, general waste bins, recycling bins and all niche services such as sanitary bins and confidential document destruction.

*Check out all your options at [waster.com.au](http://waster.com.au)*



*Waster operates on 30 day agreements – so you are never tied to a long term contract*