



# Best Practices for Regulated Medical Waste

*Sustainable Hospitals Roundtable*

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# RMW Statistics

- RMW can cost between 5 to 10 times more than non-regulated medical waste
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests only 3-5% of hospital waste needs to be disposed as RMW
- Many hospitals routinely throw more than 20% of their waste into RMW waste stream



# Practice Greenhealth's Best Management Practices for RMW

1. Review your Facility's Definition of Regulated Medical Waste
2. Establish a baseline
3. Set goals and develop an action plan
4. Make waste segregation simple and easy to understand
5. Determine the best container placement and use good signage

# KNOW WHERE to THROW!

## BIOHAZARD RED BAG WASTE

- Fluid blood
- Blood-saturated items
- Bags and IV tubing containing blood products
- Suction canisters
- Hemovacs
- Chest drainage units
- Hemodialysis products

### THESE DON'T GO in the red bag:



 EPA  
Funded by US EPA

For more information, contact:

  
These instructions are valid only in California.

***Make sure the following items don't end up in an RMW container:***

- Product packaging
- Office paper
- Paper towels
- Batteries
- Gloves and gowns
- Linens
- Diapers
- Waste medications



# Practice Greenhealth's Best Management Practices for RMW

6. Train, Educate, Repeat
7. Review your specialty RMW streams
8. Be ready to identify and solve problems
9. Consider all your waste treatment and hauling options
10. Track progress, report successes and reward staff

# Discussion

What is your hospital's experience with RMW?

Challenges? Success stories?

# Discussion

What tools or resources would be helpful to you in terms of minimizing RMW?