

# Where does waste go?

## Incineration:

- Burn waste into gas or ash.
- A simple and popular operation, but energy-intensive.
- Releases air pollutants.

## Landfilling:

- Put waste in empty land with fencing and security.
- Low cost and easy.
- Soil and water pollution.

## Microwaving:

- Extreme temperatures to destroy infectious materials.
- Environmentally friendly.
- Expensive and requires shredding of waste.

## Chemical disinfection:

- Use of chemicals to kill infectious germs.
- Time efficient and suitable for liquid waste.
- Hazardous chemicals that pose risk to workers.

## Pressure steam sterilization:

- Inactivates toxic agents with high-pressure steam.
- No pollution risk and is low cost.
- Smelly waste and have to crush materials.

# What can you do to make a difference?

You can do your part to improve the safety of others and yourself when working with medical waste:

- Always put your trash in a bin.
- Never touch or pick up used needles.
- Close trash bins and use correct liners.
- Keep on top of vaccines.
- Talk to your friends and family about where should medical waste go

## Join the movement!



### KEY:

Trash disposal:

**A - Wrong, uncovered bins**

**B - Right, covered bin**

Disposal:

**A - Wrong, mixed open waste**

**B - Right, single type of waste**

Personal protective equipment:

**A - Right, full protective equipment**

**B - Wrong, partial protective equipment with skin exposed**

# SAFE MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Your role in safeguarding health and the planet.



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Waste in humanitarian Operations:  
Reduction and Minimisation



# What is medical waste?

Every day, healthcare facilities generate waste—used gloves, syringes, medicine bottles, and more. Some of this waste, about 15%, is hazardous and can harm people and the environment.

## What's wrong?

Can you identify the right and wrong ways waste is being handled?

Trash bins



Disposal



Personal Protective Equipment



## Why should you care?

Medical waste is hazardous to people and the environment if not handled correctly.

Human Risks: Waste handlers and scavengers face daily risks of infection from improperly disposed of needles and other hazardous materials.

Environmental Impact:

- Landfills: Cause soil and water pollution.
- Burning: Releases toxic gases and ash
- Improper Handling: Increases the risk of spreading diseases.



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