



# Waste Acceptance Policies: Autoclave vs. Incineration

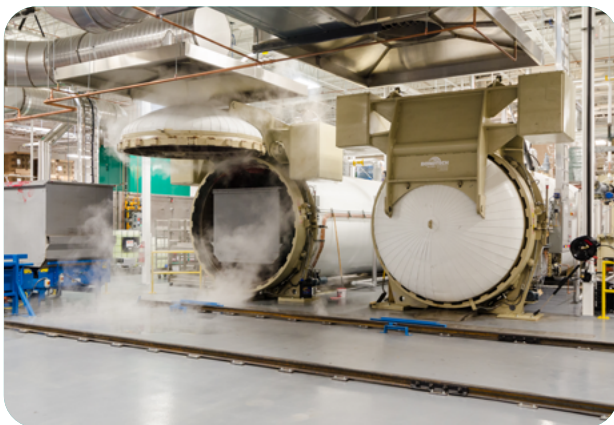
Waste Acceptance Policies (WAPs) are a waste vendor's requirements for what it will and will not accept, and under what conditions. The policies can stem from considerations such as:

- Regulations
- Permit conditions
- Business decisions
- Safety
- Operational capabilities

Stericycle has WAPs for each of its services, including one for "[Non-Incineration Services for Regulated Medical Waste and Sharps Waste Services](#)" and one for "[Incineration Services](#)." This is because medical waste and other wastes accepted by Stericycle can be treated through different methods, including:

## AUTOCLAVE

Autoclaving is the primary method of regulated waste treatment. This process relies on steam at high temperature and pressure to kill pathogens and render materials non-infectious.





## INCINERATION

Incineration burns regulated waste at elevated temperatures and reduces it to ash. Incineration is the recommended treatment option for some types of regulated waste such as pathological waste, trace chemotherapy waste, and pharmaceutical waste.



*Which Wastes are Accepted for Stericycle Regulated Medical Waste and Incineration Services?* →

# Which Wastes are Accepted for Stericycle Regulated Medical Waste and Incineration Services?

ACCEPTED Waste Autoclave and Incineration Services	ACCEPTED Waste Incineration Services ONLY	NEVER Accepted Non-Conforming Waste
 <p><b>Regulated Medical Waste:</b> biohazardous, biomedical or infectious waste</p>	<p><b>Animal Carcasses</b></p> <p><b>Pathological Waste</b> human or animal tissues, organs, limbs, surgical specimens, and other body parts</p> <p><b>Paraffin Wax Blocks</b> wax blocks with human or animal tissue embedded</p> <p><b>Prion Waste</b></p>	<p><b>Large Volumes of Liquid</b> and uncontained liquid</p> <p><b>Complete Human Remains</b> including heads, full torsos, and fetuses</p> <p><b>Select Agents or Toxins, and Untreated Category A Infectious Substances</b></p> <p><b>Radioactive Waste</b></p>
 <p><b>Sharps Waste:</b> RMW that is capable of cutting or penetrating the skin or packaging material, such as needles, syringes, scalpels, broken glass, culture slides, culture dishes, broken capillary tubes, broken rigid plastic, and exposed ends of dental wires</p>	<p><b>Non-Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals</b> pharmaceutical waste not regulated as hazardous by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or equivalent state agency</p> <p><b>Trace-Chemotherapy Waste</b> any waste contaminated through contact with, or having previously contained, chemotherapeutic agents</p>	<p><b>Hazardous Waste, including Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals</b></p> <p><b>Controlled Substances</b></p> <p><b>Loose Sharps Waste</b> sharps waste that is not in a sharps container</p> <p><b>Universal Wastes</b> such as batteries, fluorescent lamps, or mercury-contaminated equipment</p> <p><b>Chemical Wastes</b> such as solvents or cleaning products</p> <p><b>Compressed Gas Cylinders</b> canisters, aerosol cans, or metered dose inhalers</p> <p><b>Electric or Battery Powered Equipment</b> such as solvents or cleaning products</p> <p><b>Any Waste That Is Prohibited By Law</b></p>

Visit [www.stericycle.com](http://www.stericycle.com) to download our Waste Acceptance Policies to ensure proper identification, classification, segregation, packaging, and labeling of applicable waste streams.