

It can be difficult to know what colour sharps you need and what complies with UK regulations. Understanding this system not only keeps healthcare workers safe but ensures facilities are compliant with UK regulations on hazardous waste disposal. We ask you to complete a pre waste acceptance form – our team can help advise on the right size, colour and service options.

- **Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 and 2015.** These regulations dictate that appropriate training should be provided to employees so that they know how to dispose of sharps. Furthermore, sharps must be clearly labelled and stored in secure containers.
- **Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005.** These regulations dictate that any waste that could be considered hazardous to others or the environment must be stored securely before collection.

Lid Colour	What Goes In	Typical Businesses / Settings
 Orange lid	Sharps contaminated with blood or body fluids	• Tattooists • Physiotherapists • Podiatrists / Chiropodists • Acupuncturists • Osteopaths • GP surgeries (non-medicinal sharps)
 Yellow lid	Sharps contaminated with medicines and blood i.e. vaccine administration	• Semi-permanent makeup (SPMU) artists • Aesthetic practitioners (fillers) • Medical clinics • Dental practices • Veterinary practices
 Purple lid (Hazardous)	Sharps contaminated with cytotoxic or cytostatic medicines	• Oncology clinics • Hospitals (chemotherapy) • Aesthetics practises who provide Botox

Red lid sharps – this would be used for anatomical waste i.e body parts. Blue lid is classed as pharmaceutical waste (not typically used for sharps), examples are out of date prescription medicine.

Once a sharps bin is three-quarters full, it must be sealed, labelled, and removed from clinical areas. Disposal must be carried out by a licensed waste contractor authorised to handle clinical waste.