











CLINICAL WASTE CLASSIFICATION MATRIX

A Simple Visual Guide & EWC Codes Explained



GOLDEN RULE: IF IN DOUBT, CONSULT YOUR SITE-SPECIFIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN.
ALWAYS SEGREGATE AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION.



COLOUR BAG / BIN	CATEGORY	EWC CODE	EXAMPLES	DISPOSAL
 Warning Yellow	Infectious (High Risk)	18 01 03*	Dressings, swabs, cultures, stocks. Incineration required. 	Incineration
 Safety Orange	Infectious (Treatable)	18 01 03*	Contaminated waste suitable for alternative treatment e.g. autoclaving.) 	Alternative Treatment
 Healthcare Purple	Cytotoxic / Cytostatic	18 01 08*	Medicines containing cytotoxic/cytostatic ingredients (e.g. cancer drugs) 	Special Disposal
 Tiger Stripe	Offensive / Hygienic	18 01 04	Non-infectious waste (incontinence pads, PPE from non-infectious areas). Implement in minutes. 	Implement in Minutes
 Standard Black	Domestic / Municipal	20 03 01	Non-clinical, non-hazardous general office waste. 	Domestic Disposal

RESOURCE CENTRE

ukclinicalwaste.co.uk/resource-centre

Need assistance with your waste stream audit? Visit our Resource Centre for compliant toolkits and advice to prepare for the October 2026 Digital Mandate.