

# Best practices for fluid management

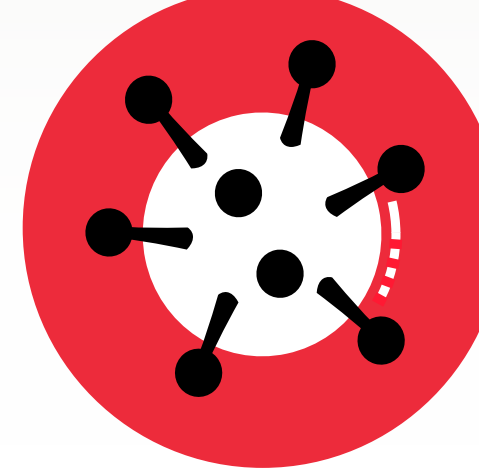


Improper handling of liquid medical waste can be dangerous and costly for healthcare facilities. It increases the risk of infection for staff and can lead to fines and employee treatment costs. You can take steps to improve safety and reduce costs related to fluid waste management in your facility.

## Why proper handling matters



**15%** of medical waste generated is hazardous. Of that, 10% is infectious.<sup>1</sup>

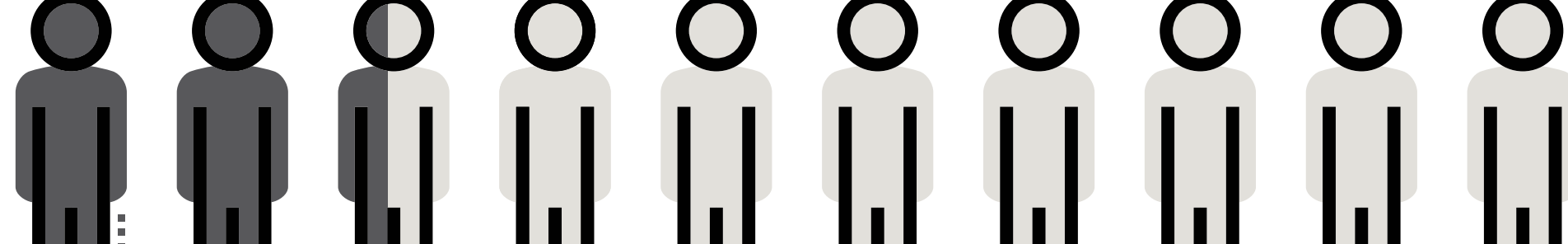


Up to **26**

types of infections can be transmitted through medical waste.<sup>1</sup>

Up to

**24%**



of staff may not wear gown or facial protection during disposal, putting them at risk of exposure through airborne contaminants, splashes, and spills.<sup>2</sup>

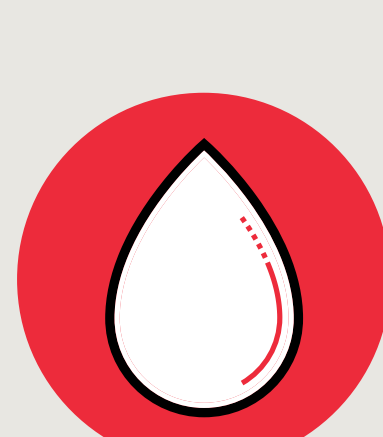


Exposure can cost facilities up to

**\$3,000**

per incident, including employee time-off, treatment and follow-up.<sup>2</sup>

## Follow best practices for safe fluid management



Never pour out liquid-filled canisters.<sup>3</sup>



Wear PPE. Utilize masks, eye protection, and face shields when splashes, spray, or droplets are likely.<sup>4</sup>



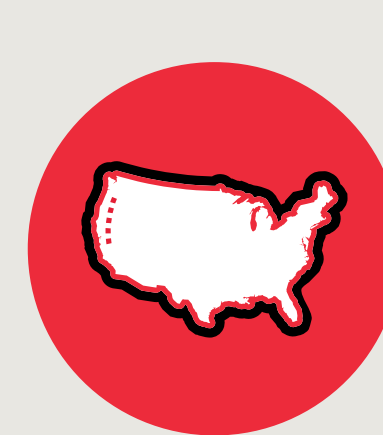
Dispose of suction canisters and contents in regulated waste, unless disinfected.<sup>4</sup>



Adopt standardized cleaning and replacement procedures for suction devices.<sup>1</sup>



Train and educate on safe handling.<sup>1,3</sup>



Follow local law for disposal processes.



**Add solidifiers to fluid waste to mitigate splashes and spills and keep staff safe.<sup>1,3</sup>**

## Safe disposal with solidifiers

**Adding solidifiers to suction canisters turns liquid into a gel-like substance.**

- Reduces risk from splashes and spills
- Can be used in all forms and sizes of canisters
- Can be added before a procedure to maintain a closed suction system
- Solidifies for up to 48 hours as more fluid is added
- Complies with U.S.DOT red-bag disposal requirements

**Treated solidifiers\* provide added benefits:**

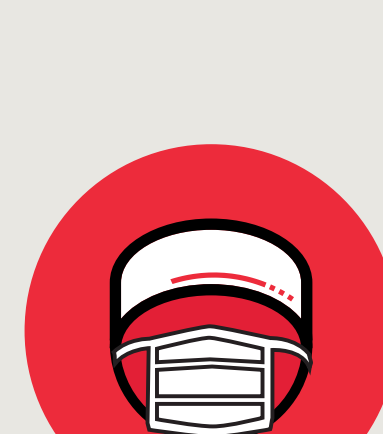
- Decontaminates waste as it gels
- Decreases costs by utilizing non-regulated white bag disposal
- Further reduces risk of infection



## How to save on fluid waste disposal



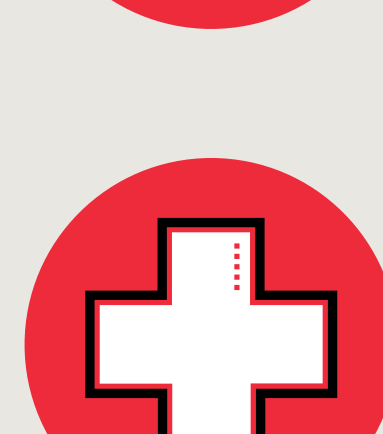
Use evidence-based purchasing for fluid waste disposal, considering quality and safety of supplies purchased<sup>1</sup>



Ensure staff wear appropriate protective gear<sup>3</sup>



Choose appropriate supplies for your work environment<sup>1,3</sup>



Add solidifiers to your Fluid Management system:



- An upfront investment saves over the long run with improved safety due to reduced contamination risk.
- Using solidifiers helps prevent splashes and spills to protect staff.
- Treated solidifiers provide additional cost savings upon disposal due to decreased waste disposal costs.



Cardinal Health has the products and solutions to help meet your fluid management needs with both clinician and patient safety at top of mind. Learn more about our comprehensive portfolio of solidifiers at [cardinalhealth.com/fluid-management](https://cardinalhealth.com/fluid-management)



1. Chun, C. & Zohdy, M. (2017). Medical Suction and Fluid Waste Management: Patient and Workplace Safety Considerations for Health Care Organizations. Joint Commission International. Accessed from: [https://store.jointcommissioninternational.org/assets/3/7/-jci\\_wp\\_med\\_suction\\_and\\_fluid\\_waste\\_mgt\\_final\\_11.pdf](https://store.jointcommissioninternational.org/assets/3/7/-jci_wp_med_suction_and_fluid_waste_mgt_final_11.pdf)

2. Bean, M. (2018). Stop the splashes, spills: How hospitals can ensure safe disposal of infectious fluid waste. Becker Hospital Review. Accessed from: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/stop-the-splashes-spills-how-hospitals-can-ensure-safe-disposal-of-infectious-fluid-waste.html>

3. Burger, J. (2018). 3 Golden Rules of Fluid Waste Disposal. AORN. Accessed from: <https://www.aorn.org/outpatient-surgery/article/2018-July-3-golden-rules-of-fluid-waste-disposal>

4. United States Department of Labor. (1991). Bloodborne pathogens. OSHA. Accessed from: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>

\*Approved for use in 42 states.

CARDINAL HEALTH, Cardinal Health LOGO, ESSENTIAL TO CARE are trademarks of Cardinal Health and may be registered in the US and/or in other countries. All other marks are the property of their respective owners. ©2023 Cardinal Health. All Rights Reserved. [Lit. Number- 20R23-2273485 02/2023]