

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

FACT SHEET FOR OPENING A NEW BIOMEDICAL WASTE FACILITY

Both the Department of Health and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection have responsibilities under this program. Facilities that generate, transport, store or treat biomedical waste through processes other than incineration are governed by 64E-16, Florida Administrative Code* and are permitted and inspected by the Florida Department of Health.

1. If your business will generate biomedical waste, transport biomedical waste, store biomedical waste or treat biomedical waste (other than by incineration – which requires a Department of Environmental Protection permit), you must obtain a biomedical waste permit from the Florida Department of Health.
2. **First:** Submit a **completed application** for a biomedical waste permit to the Florida Department of Health in Martin County together with the **required permit fee**. Applications are available on the Florida Department of Health webpage at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/index.html> (attach proof of fictitious name or corporation, if applicable)
3. **Second:** At the time of submission, an **appointment** will be scheduled for the opening inspection.
4. **Third:** Pass **inspection** (have the following available for review during the opening inspection)
 - a. A completed biomedical waste plan specific to your facility. A fill-in-the-blank sample is available at http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/documents/CurrentDisclaimer_08.pdf
 - b. Proof of training of all employees who will handle biomedical waste in your facility. Training must cover the biomedical waste plan specific to your facility and Florida Administrative Code, 64E-16*. (Note: OSHA Bloodborne pathogen training alone is NOT sufficient to meet this requirement)
 - c. A method for recording the amount of waste generated and transported.
 - d. Documentation demonstrating that you have contracted with a registered transport company (if you plan to have your waste transported from your facility to the treatment facility) or other approved method of transporting and treating the biomedical waste generated at your facility. Lists of Florida registered transporters are available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/bmw-transporter-list.html>
The local inspector may also have a list of approved "mail-back" companies that have been approved by the United States Postal Service which may be suitable if you generate a small amount of waste. Lists of Florida permitted treatment facilities are available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/treatment-facilities.html>
 - e. Sharps containers and/or red bags set up in each location where biomedical waste will be generated or stored.
 - f. Many red biomedical waste bags now have the standard printed on the bag – otherwise you must have written documentation that your red bags meet the requirement and are **approved for use in Florida**. Lists of Florida approved red bags are available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/red-bag-list.html> (If your red bag manufacturer and product designation are not on the list, it is NOT approved and may not be used.)
 - g. Proper measures in place to prevent unauthorized access to biomedical waste storage area(s).
 - h. Materials for properly cleaning and disinfecting a possible spill (spill kit)

Transporters and Storage Facilities should speak with an inspector to determine what additional items they will be expected to provide at the opening inspection

Information regarding this permit and the requirements associated with it as well as application forms can be found at the Florida Department of Health website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/index.html>

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

The Florida Department of Health in Martin County
(772) 221-4090

*Florida Administrative Code 64E-16 may be downloaded from
http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/documents/64E16_1.pdf