

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Pathological Waste Services For Healthcare Facilities

### A Better Solution

Many laboratories in healthcare settings generate pathological waste streams, which are samples that are generally stored in formaldehyde solutions or alcohol. The widely utilized waste management process requires separation of the tissue from the liquid, generally due to the medical waste provider not wanting the liquid with the tissue waste. Clean Harbors has a better solution:

- No separation of tissue from the liquid is required
- Offers a lower overall cost to the facility
- Reduces or eliminates OSHA and sewer board risks
- Enables staff to focus on their core responsibilities
- Waste is disposed in compliance with HIPAA without alteration

### A More Cost-effective Solution

Clean Harbors' Pathological Waste Services offers significant savings in real dollars versus the current method of tissue/liquid separation and sewer disposal.

### OSHA Requirements and Employer Risk

Clean Harbors can help keep you in compliance by advising you of current state and federal waste regulations. If a hospital is working with formaldehyde solutions (an OSHA regulated material), the standard in 29CFR1910.1048 requires air sampling to ensure workers are not exposed to this chemical. There are numerous employer requirements including, employee training, respiratory programs, signage, exposure limits, testing, and employee notification of test results. Employers who do not follow these requirements are subject to fines. With the challenges and ever-changing demands healthcare facilities face managing their waste collection programs, most facilities don't follow the OSHA regulations required under 29CFR1910 for formaldehyde solutions as they aren't aware the regulations exist.

[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_id=10075&p\\_table=STANDARDS](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=10075&p_table=STANDARDS)

### Local Sewer Board Approval

Almost all local sewer boards/publically owned treatment facilities require notification of chemical releases into the sewer. Few hospitals have articulated the release of formaldehyde solutions and the treatment chemical, and the timing and volumes of each. While local sewer entities are not searching for who is discharging these items, violators are subject to their jurisdiction to be fined for not disclosing the release of these materials.



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## Best Practice in the Management of Pathological Waste

Clean Harbors has a specific offering for Healthcare Facilities that enables a Best Practice in the management of Pathological Waste. Clean Harbors Pathological Waste Services -

- Offers lower cost
- Eliminates a task that puts employees at risk for formaldehyde solutions exposure
- Reduces employer risk of OSHA violations
- Reduces the facility's risk of not complying with local requirements on what is being discharged into the local sewer system

### Ongoing Service Schedules

Clean Harbors schedules service based upon your needs. Whether you require multiple pickups each week or just one a year, we have scheduled service dates for every location in the U.S. on a proactive basis. If you are caught in a bind due to an inspection or a weather related issue, or your facility generated more waste than normal, either log online or call us to add more pickups. Clean Harbors only invoices for services provided, so if you generate less waste than normal, you won't pay for services you didn't receive.

### Consolidate Vendors

Clean Harbors is likely servicing your institution already or a healthcare facility right up the street. If we are servicing your location already, we can reduce your costs by servicing these wastes with other waste streams. If we are not currently providing service for you, we can easily add your facility to our service network at any time.