

## GOOD PRACTICE ALTERNATIVES AND SOLUTIONS TO DEAL WITH YOUR WASTE

**Minimise** or reduce your waste output. It is best not to produce waste in the first place:

- Buy products with packaging that can be recycled;
- Consider mobile digital imaging; no more chemical waste, less exposure;
- Choose suppliers with take back facilities and order exact or small amounts to avoid unusable or out-of-date stocks;
- Avoid the use of disposables (protective clothing to reduce yellow bag waste);
- Shred paper to use as animal bedding and compost it afterwards;
- Use A4 double sided or as scrap paper
- Accurate stock keeping; avoid too much stock and products going out of date.

**Composting.** Biodegradable wastes can be composted **on site** (garden waste, cardboard, paper and small wood). You need space for a facility that is big enough to handle your waste output.

### Recycling and re-use:

- **Most important:** Buy recycled goods and help develop the markets for recyclables;
- Find a supplier that will take back your computers/packaging to be recycled
- Try to get permission to use council recycling banks or bring sites.
- Separate recyclables at source: Office paper, cardboard, glass, hazardous.
- Offer to take back from clients empty medicine packaging to be recycled.

**WHAT NOT TO DO** (breaches of Duty of Care or Licensing Regulations; you could be fined!)

- Use other peoples' skip with or without consent.
- Take waste home for recycling or composting.
- Burn waste on site, especially not plastics, oils or chemicals.
- Give waste to unlicensed people who then act as waste management companies.

## OTHER RELEVANT REGULATIONS

- **Duty of Care Regulations (EPA 1990 Section 34) (Issue 2 of Series 1)**
- **Hazardous Waste Regulations and the European Waste Catalogue - EWC (including the Hazardous Waste List) (Due 2005) (Issue 3 of Series 1)**
- **Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002**

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### DEFRA Central Government

[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

#### Environment Agency Wales (regulator/licensing and permits/enforcement)

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

#### NetRegs legislation explained

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs)

#### Waste Resources Action Plan (Glass recycling)

[www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)

#### Arena Network Green Dragon scheme

[www.arenanetwork.wales.org.uk](http://www.arenanetwork.wales.org.uk)

#### Groundwork Environmental Charity

[www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk)

N.B. BRASS is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

Each week a different sector of industry or waste type will be discussed in these briefing notes, which can be downloaded from the website below.

N.B.: These notes are merely a guidance and should not be considered as advice from any of the parties contained within this leaflet.



**BRASS Centre**  
54 Park Place,  
Cardiff CF10 3AT  
Tel: 02920 876562  
Fax: 02920 876061

[www.brass.cf.ac.uk/wastesurvey.html](http://www.brass.cf.ac.uk/wastesurvey.html)



## WASTE MANAGEMENT IN VETERINARY AND DENTAL PRACTICES



The second series of business briefing notes published by the BRASS Centre looks at specific business and industry sectors.

Waste issues experienced by individual business sectors are addressed and some basic guidance is provided. This third issue of series 2 draws on data collected from veterinary and dental practices involved in the Commercial and Industrial Waste Survey 2003 conducted in Wales. The leaflet aims to offer assistance and tries to

raise awareness of waste and environmental issues.



## WASTE AND YOUR BUSINESS

Waste is a cost to any business activity and in the coming years the cost of disposing waste is set to increase, particularly if you produce hazardous wastes, including those newly classified under the Hazardous Waste Regulations. Increasing Landfill Tax and pressures to divert waste from landfill will impact on business expenditure.

Waste management in veterinary and dental practices is quite a complex issue, not because of the great volumes or high total cost of disposal but because it involves a lot of small amounts of very different types of waste. Most of these wastes need their own particular waste management option; X-ray related hazardous wastes, empty and/or contaminated packaging, clinical waste (yellow bag), dentists waste containing mercury, DOOP (destruction of old pharmaceuticals) waste and other wastes typical for this business sector. It's easy to leave waste management to professional companies but awareness and pro-activity could save you money and benefit the environment at the same time.



### STANDARD VETERINARY AND DENTISTS WASTE TYPES

The following are the typical types of waste disposed by veterinary and dental clinics participating in the Commercial and Industrial Waste Survey (Wales). Standard European Waste Catalogue (EWC) codes are provided in red to enable you to complete your waste Transfer Notes and also added is a recommended waste management option in bold.

**REDUCE – RE-USE – RECYCLE**

## WASTE FROM DENTAL AND VETS PRACTICES

**1 Mixed waste (200301)**, usually disposed in landfill by Local Council. Components:

- Packaging wastes: cardboard/paper packaging (15 01 01) **recycling**, plastic (15 01 02) **recycling** where possible, glass bottles (15 01 07) **recycling**
- Office paper (20 01 01) **recycling**
- Other mixed office/staff room waste (20 0301), including: Food wrappers, floor sweepings/practice cleaning waste all to **landfill**, fruit peelings, teabags and garden waste **composting on site**.

**2 Clinical waste** - yellow bags, bins and buckets and DOOP (Destruction of old Pharmaceuticals) **all incinerated** via specialised waste management companies. It's your duty to check licences & destinations (Duty of Care, series 1/issue 2):

- Non infectious human healthcare waste (180104); Human body parts like teeth (180102); Non infectious animal healthcare waste including soiled bedding, carcasses, blood, body parts (180203);
- Sharps: blades, syringes, glass vials (180101 human and 180201 animal);
- DOOP: out-of-date/unused medicines (180109 for human 180208 for animal)

**3 Hazardous waste\*** - **incineration** or **recovery** through waste management companies:

- Infected clinical waste (180103\* for human and 180202\* for animal)
- From X rays: Developer and fixer solutions, lead containing wastes (180106\* for human and 180205\* for animal)
- Amalgam waste (180110\*)
- Empty amalgam dispensers and other contaminated packaging (150110\*)
- Animal Cytotoxic/static medicines (180207\*)

**4 Other wastes - recycling** through supplier or via bring site: Old computers (160214), Furniture (200307) and Feminine hygiene waste (180104) to the **incinerator**.

**5 Other hazardous wastes See 3:** monitors/ tv's (160113\*) fridges and or freezers (200123\*) fluorescent tubes(200121\*).

## THE COST OF WASTE DISPOSAL

Until 2010, the cost of sending waste to landfill will increase incrementally by £3.00 a tonne per year due to the Landfill Tax Regulations until it reaches £35 per tonne. In addition, the new Hazardous Waste Regulations and Landfill Regulations require waste be separated, hazardous waste (if being landfilled) is sent only to a hazardous waste landfill site (none in Wales) and that hazardous waste is pre-treated and that waste disposal meets the requirements of the Waste Acceptance Criteria. The result is if



you want to landfill waste it will be more costly. You will need to consider alternatives, most importantly trying to reduce the total amount of waste you produce.

### MAIN WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING PROBLEMS

The main wastes like glass, paper and cardboard, cans/tins, garden wastes, can and should be re-used, recycled or composted. This is often difficult due to the following reasons:

- Local councils often don't provide separate collections from businesses. Companies are often not allowed to use civic recycling facilities (bottle banks, bring sites), discouraging recycling.
- Locations are often rural, far away from facilities that accept recyclables and mileage per tonne is too high, volumes too insignificant to have them picked up by recyclers.
- Urban locations often lack storage and/or composting space. This makes regular collections of small volumes of waste necessary and complicates separation, recycling and composting.
- Separation and management of recyclables is labour intensive. It may seem cheaper to put it in the bin but this option is not in the interest of the environment and soon if not already not in your financial interest.
- The rise in cost of disposal to landfill (by local council, private contractors) will make it an increasingly less attractive option.