

## Proper Disposal and Recycling of Materials

Federal laws govern the management and disposal of medical waste. Medical waste is considered to be healthcare waste that has been contaminated by blood, other body fluids, or other sources of potential infection. Proper procedures for disposal of medical waste include

- incineration;
- sterilization with steam (as in autoclaving);
- electrophoresis;
- chemical mechanical system processing; and
- thermal treatment (as in microwaving).

Materials not considered to be medical waste should be recycled whenever possible. Many municipalities provide services for recycling of common, used products such as plastic and metal containers and paper products. There are also numerous agencies and organizations that recycle used goods. These goods include the following:

- appliances;
- clothes;
- athletic shoes;
- batteries;
- computers and electronics;
- compact fluorescent bulbs;
- eyeglasses;
- foam packing;
- ink or toner cartridges; and
- sports equipment.