



EARTH DAY 2023

GREENING THE RED WASTE!

WHAT IS REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE (RMW)?

THE PORTION OF THE WASTE STREAM THAT MAY BE CONTAMINATED BY BLOOD, BODY FLUIDS, OR OTHER POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS MATERIALS. THIS IS WASTE THAT CANNOT BE RECYCLED.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF RMW

RMW IS INCINERATED OR AUTOCLAVED --> TRANSPORTED TO LANDFILL --> GENERATES HIGH AMOUNTS OF CO2 EMISSIONS.

One 10 kg bag of RMW = 10 kg CO2 emissions = average vehicle driving 25 miles

CO2 impact of 1 bag of RMW = 26 bags of regular waste

WHAT CAN WE DO?

SORT PROPERLY!

- DISCARD ONLY ITEMS THAT ARE SATURATED WITH BLOOD TO THE POINT OF DRIPPING (example below)
- DISCARD ONLY URINE, FECES, SPUTUM, AND VOMIT WITH VISIBLE SIGNS OF BLOOD
- OPERATING ROOM PACKAGING IS OFTEN CLEAN OR STERILE AND SHOULD BE TRIAGED INTO REGULAR WASTE (OR RECYCLED!).
- NEVER PLACE LINEN IN A RED BIN, REGARDLESS OF HOW SOAKED OR SOILED.



Stained



Saturated



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

