

Chapter: Serious and Infectious Disease	<b>Effective Date: 4/15/17</b>
<b>Title: Handling and Disposal of Razors and Biohazardous Materials</b>	Page: 1 of 2
	Replaces: HHS.60.10, 5/01/13

(a) **Standard.**

Each facility maintains procedures for handling and disposing of razors and biohazardous materials. A spill kit obtained from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department warehouse is available on-site.

The institution nurse may not transport biohazardous waste.

(b) **References.**

See the [Workplace Guidelines: Precautions and Procedures to Reduce the Risk of Infection from Contagious Diseases, Including HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C](#) and the [Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan](#).

(c) **Procedures.**

(1) **Spill Kit.**

- (A) If an incident occurs involving a significant amount of blood loss (i.e., more than 2 tablespoons), the **human services specialist (HSS)** or a **juvenile correctional officer (JCO)** uses the spill kit as directed.
- (B) The **HSS** or **JCO** places the contents in a biohazard bag, secures it tightly, and places the secured bag in a box, which is securely taped on all sides.
- (C) The **HSS** or **designee** arranges for delivery of the box to the assigned institution infirmary for destruction.

(2) **Contaminated Needles.**

The **HSS** or a **JCO**:

- (A) disposes of dirty needles in a red, puncture-proof biohazard container;
- (B) places the biohazard container in a biohazard bag, secures it tightly, places the secured bag in a box, which is securely taped on all sides, and labels the box "BIOHAZARD";
- (C) arranges for delivery of the box to the assigned institution infirmary for destruction.

(3) **Razors for Shaving.**

(A) **Assignment.**

A **JCO**:

- (i) assigns each youth a disposable, electric, or battery-operated razor for personal use;
- (ii) replaces disposable razors as needed, but at least once per week; and
- (iii) labels the assigned razor with the youth's name.

Note: Under no circumstances are razors to be shared.

(B) **Safe Use and Handling.**

(i) A **JCO**:

- (I) ensures youth shave according to the daily schedule or as otherwise approved; and
- (II) provides youth with shaving instructions to ensure safe use of the razor.

- (ii) **All staff members** maintain a razor control system, to include a perpetual inventory with a visual daily inspection process. The inventory and visual daily inspection is documented on a locally developed check-out log.

(C) **Cleaning.**

A **JCO** ensures:

- (i) youth rinse their disposable razors with water after each use (decontamination is not needed); and
- (ii) razors have not been tampered with and all parts are intact.

(D) **Storage and Disposal.**

- (i) When razors are not in use, a **JCO** stores them:

- (I) in a covered container, with a protective cover over the blade; and
- (II) in a secured area not accessible to youth.

- (ii) **All halfway house staff members** dispose of used razors using normal waste-disposal procedures. Disposable razors are not considered to be biohazardous waste and do not require biohazard disposal.
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