



Interim Guidance on the Safe Disposal of Ebola Patient Waste

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- **Hospital and Residential-based Guidelines with waste disposal in sanitary sewer systems:**
 - Florida Department of Health (DOH) recommends pre-treatment of Ebola patient toilet waste in the toilet bowl with one cup of bleach (such as undiluted household bleach with a concentration of at least 5%) for at least five minutes prior to flushing. When using other EPA approved disinfectants follow manufacturer's concentration recommendations but with a contact time of 5 minutes.
 - Although this guidance is not intended to apply to persons outside of healthcare settings, it is an appropriate strategy to follow in residential settings as well.
 - It is recommended that pre-treatment of Ebola patient waste should only be done by individuals wearing appropriate personal protective equipment: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>.

- **Residential-based Guidelines with waste disposal into an Onsite Septage Treatment System:**
 - DOH recommends pre-treatment of Ebola patient toilet waste in the toilet bowl with one cup of bleach (such as undiluted household bleach with a concentration of at least 5%) for at least five minutes prior to flushing.
 - Although this guidance is not intended to apply to persons outside of healthcare settings, it is an appropriate strategy to follow in residential settings as well.
 - It is recommended that pre-treatment of Ebola patient waste should only be done by individuals wearing appropriate personal protective equipment: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>.
 - Onsite Septage Treatment Systems should be kept as intact as possible during and after Ebola related waste has been received.
 - It is recommended that the septic tank and the drain field not be compromised.

- If there is a need for maintenance and pump-out, after appropriate training, hospital level PPE should be used to avoid contact with waste. If time permits, it is recommended the septic tank be treated with hydrated lime at the rate of 100 lbs. per 1000 gallons at least 24 hours prior to pump out.
- A properly trained DOH County Health Department observer in hospital level PPE will be utilized during the process to ensure compliance with all safety procedures.
- Pump-out waste will be transported directly to a Florida Department of Environmental Protection-approved wastewater treatment plant for discharge following safe handling protocols. At the wastewater treatment facility, pump out equipment should be disinfected with a 1:100 solution of standard household bleach (5% or greater or other EPA approved disinfectants following manufacturer's concentration recommendations) after disposing of the septage from the pump out.

Note: People in residential settings who have symptoms suggesting Ebola Virus Disease will be transported to a high-level care facility when deemed appropriate by DOH.