



Cactus Smart Sink[®] Controlled Substance Waste Management System

Frequently asked questions

What is the Cactus Smart Sink System? How does it work?

Stryker's Cactus Smart Sink System is an easy to use, "green" waste solution for unused pharmaceuticals. It accepts unused portions or partial doses of controlled substances and provides for a secure alternative to a sink, toilet, red sharps container or waste bin for drug waste. This innovative and compact system helps bring medical facilities into compliance by eliminating the impact to our environment while preventing unauthorized use of unused DEA-regulated controlled substances.

The Cactus Smart Sink System automatically secures and renders controlled substance waste unusable and non-recoverable while providing a secured bridge from traditional drug disposal to proper and responsible disposal.

This system utilizes two replaceable cartridges: one liquid cartridge for liquid waste and one solid cartridge for capsules, tablets and patches. Both cartridges allow for continuous disposal over time and are designed to last up to 90 days. The system utilizes automatic timers and weight indicators providing notice when cartridges are full or have expired. The system also allows you to choose a preferred expiration date by using the built-in timer selector switch.

The Cactus Smart Sink System helps bring medical facilities into compliance by providing a secured and environmentally friendly method of disposal.

- It facilitates properly witnessed wasting of narcotics in the open and near the drug dispensing systems where needed, improving safety and saving time.
- It allows for up-front waste documentation and facilitates this process to be completed immediately (when controlled substances are dispensed) rather than later.
- It provides for secure disposal of unused drugs, as opposed to the insertion of drugs into red sharps containers.
- It reduces the opportunities for drug diversion by facilitating two-person witnessed-wasting and by keeping partially filled vials and syringes out of red sharps containers, which have become a key source for drug diversion in medical facilities.

How does the Cactus Smart Sink System render pharmaceutical waste unusable and non-recoverable?

When liquid waste is introduced it is automatically filtered through a proprietary mixture of chemicals and deterrents and it is converted to a semi-solid state within fifteen seconds, rendering waste unusable and non-recoverable.

Solids (tablets, capsules and patches) are captured through a one-way pill maze and patch slot, secured and rendered unusable and non-recoverable with a proprietary liquid mixture. Solid cartridges are activated by your facility upon installation.

Where do I install the Cactus Smart Sink System?

The Cactus Smart Sink System can be installed wherever controlled substances or medications are drawn, stored or administered by healthcare professionals, or wherever there is a need for a secured disposal system for controlled substance waste. The most common application is next to automated medication dispensing systems. Other locations include nursing stations, procedure rooms, ICU, ER, OR, near Pyxis & Omnicell systems, pharmacies, outpatient clinics, surgery centers, long-term care facilities, hospice facilities and EMS/ambulances.

Who maintains access?

Only authorized facility personnel can gain access to the unit with a secured lock system. Though controlled substance waste is rendered unusable and non-recoverable, limited access is still recommended for proper waste control.

How big is the Cactus Smart Sink System? How much waste does it hold?

The Cactus Smart Sink System measures 15 ½ inches wide, 12 ½ inches tall, 9 ½ inches deep. Liquid capacity is approximately 3.0L, and the solids capacity is approximately 1.7L. (Approximately 500-1500 tablets/capsules).

Will it fit on a wall or on a cabinet?

Both. The Cactus Smart Sink System can be easily mounted to a wall or countertop, and comes with a mounting bracket, installation hardware and installation instructions.

What kind of waste does the Cactus Smart Sink System accept?

Raw pharmaceutical waste only. The system is not a sharps container and does not accept syringes or packaging such as vials or bottles. It is not designed for and should not be used for chemotherapy or nuclear medicine waste. Due to its multiple security features, most medical facilities use the system for controlled substance waste.

Does the Cactus Smart Sink System accept RCRA hazardous waste (such as Coumadin)?

Some facilities may designate just one or two units as hazardous only to reduce RCRA waste accumulation.¹ Follow all required state and federal guidelines for RCRA hazardous waste.

What happens to the cartridges once they are full? Who can take them?

Once the cartridges are full or expired, they should be disposed of through your authorized waste management company.²

If needed, Stryker provides individualized bar coding specific to each cartridge that provides for tracking and proper disposal documentation if needed. Smaller facilities may have local exceptions to dispose of the sealed containers through regular disposal methods regardless of its classification. Follow all required state and federal guidelines for RCRA hazardous waste.

What if we don't have a contracted waste management company?

Stryker can recommend an authorized waste management company or other compliant solution upon request.

Do state and federal regulatory agencies approve the Cactus Smart Sink System?

Federal and state agencies do not recommend or endorse any specific product, but may recommend a general procedure, technology or alternative method of disposal. These agencies now prefer methods other than flushing or red sharps container disposal. Federal, state, tribal and hospital regulatory agencies still recommend diversion prevention protocols, witness and wasting, proper waste sorting and proper waste policies be followed.

Does the Cactus Smart Sink System meet the DEA's requirements for controlled substance disposal?

Yes. See DEA Rule on Disposal of Controlled Substances, 9/9/14 regarding partially administered and remaining portions of controlled substances. Dear Practitioner Letter. The DEA allows Cactus Smart Sink System cartridges to be handled by authorized waste companies as pharmaceutical waste.

How does the Cactus Smart Sink System fit in with our hospital drug waste program?

The Cactus Smart Sink System complements drug waste programs and protocols by responsibly disposing of partially administered doses of medication while simplifying the complex process of controlled substance waste disposal.

Most medical employees tend to dispose of unused controlled substances in inappropriate containers, such as sharps bins, trash cans and other type containers, all of which do not meet protocol, are potential violations of regulations and provide opportunities for diversion. The Cactus Smart Sink System can accept roughly 94% of pharmaceutical waste and provides a central waste system for liquid, capsules and patches.

Is the Cactus Smart Sink System economical to use?

Yes. The Cactus Smart Sink System is easy to use and saves time and reduces costs by:

- Facilitating proper witness and waste compliance
- Facilitating witness and wasting up front, rather than later
- Located where needed
- Reducing drug-filled vials and syringes in red sharps containers
- Allowing for hands-free use for tablets and liquids
- Allowing for continuous, automatic use over time – no mixing or shaking each time it is used
- Securing waste with locks and expiration alerts, and by self-monitoring

How much does the Cactus Smart Sink System cost?

Pricing is based on facility size and number of units purchased. Contact Stryker customer service or your Surgical Safety representative for proper application and pricing.

How long do cartridges last?

The Cactus Smart Sink System incorporates built-in timers that can be set for 30, 60, 90 or 180 days to accommodate different usage levels. This allows your facility to determine the frequency of cartridge change out. The system will automatically alert you when the cartridges are full or expired. Plus, liquid waste and solid waste cartridges can be changed independent of each other as they fill up or expire. It's recommended that cartridges containing non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste be changed out every 90 days or less.

Will this add to our disposal costs?

Considering the cost of monitoring and managing drug waste protocols, possible fines and bringing your facility into compliance, the Cactus Smart Sink System should help reduce your costs overall. In many cases, the Cactus Smart Sink System saves time for your staff due to convenient locations and easy classification.

- Empty vials and syringes can now go into regular waste or sharps bins rather than into the more expensive pharmaceutical waste bins.
- Facilities must consider the cost and risk of unused drugs ending up in the hands of unauthorized personnel in the acute setting. The Cactus Smart Sink System also helps to simplify the confusion and errors that occur when wasting controlled substances.
- Some facilities may utilize a universal waste classification system and 'overclassify' all pharmaceutical waste as RCRA hazardous (black bin waste). While this practice ensures that no RCRA hazardous waste is accidentally entered into the regular pharmaceutical waste stream, this process tends to be more costly than segregating waste.

I can just put my waste in sharps containers, waste bins or down the drain. Why do I need to have this?

Red sharps containers and waste bins are not acceptable means of pharmaceutical waste disposal. Red sharps containers do not render pharmaceutical waste unusable and non-recoverable, nor do they provide proper security and have become a key and common source for illegal drug diversion.

Many states, counties and cities are moving toward 'no-flush' policies and medical facilities are being held accountable for all waste that they generate. Methods of disposal that were allowed in the past such as 'sewering' or red sharps containers may no longer be allowed. Failure to comply with these new regulations could result in sanctions and/or fines.

How much training is involved?

Very little. Install, lock it down, add cartridges and start filling them – the machine does the rest. Plus, the Cactus Smart Sink System is hands-free so there is no need for opening, shaking or mixing. See Stryker for educational programs, installation guides and in-service videos.

How much security does it have?

Quite a bit. The Cactus Smart Sink System provides a heavy-duty bracket that allows for secured countertop or wall mounting with a lock and key. A full installation hardware kit is provided.

The Cactus Smart Sink System alerts you through an audible tone when the unit is full, expired or when the system is being accessed. The system cannot be accessed without the coded security key. The low-battery warning system also provides notice when the battery needs to be replaced. The warning will typically allow for a 2- to 3-week notice prior to battery expiration. Unused narcotics that are injected or inserted into the Cactus Smart Sink System are not only secured with the locking system, but are rendered unusable and non-recoverable. If preferred, for added security and tracking, each cartridge is individually coded to account for final documentation and incineration of the byproduct.

Does it need power or an outlet?

The Cactus Smart Sink System is battery powered – typical battery life is about 12 to 14 months. Stryker also offers an AC adapter plug-in pack to eliminate the need for replacement batteries.

¹Always follow all federal, state, tribal and local disposal regulations for RCRA hazardous waste. If RCRA hazardous waste is introduced into the Cactus Smart Sink System, the appropriate RCRA guidelines for labeling, tracking and disposal should be followed.

²Always follow all federal, state, tribal and local disposal regulations for pharmaceutical waste.

For questions or to place your order today, please contact your Surgical Safety representative or call 800 253 3210.

The information presented is intended to demonstrate the breadth of Stryker's product offerings. A healthcare professional must always refer to the package insert, product label and/or instructions for use before using any of Stryker's products. Products may not be available in all markets because product availability is subject to the regulatory and/or medical practices in individual markets. Please contact your Stryker representative if you have questions about the availability of Stryker's products in your area.

 See Stryker's Cactus Smart Sink Controlled Substance Waste Management System Instructions for Use (IFU) for complete details.

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Literature number: 9100-004-579 Rev none PF/PS