



## Missouri Radiation Control Program Guidance Document/Frequently Asked Question

See below for regulatory guidance on the following issue. If you have additional questions, you may contact the Missouri Radiation Control Program at [MRCP@health.mo.gov](mailto:MRCP@health.mo.gov) or 573-751-6083

### What must be done to properly dispose of old x-ray equipment? (updated June 2022)

- **First, notify the Missouri Radiation Control Program in writing:** State law requires that the department be notified in writing whenever there is a change in the status of the equipment. Please email [MRCP@health.mo.gov](mailto:MRCP@health.mo.gov)
- Radiation machines must continue to be registered with our department until it is **disposed by one of the following:**
  - Removed by an *x-ray equipment vendor*; DHSS needs to know which company removed it.
  - *Transferred/relocated/sold to another facility*—we will need to know contact information on the new owners.
  - *Rendered permanently incapable of producing radiation and scrapped*—we will need to know the method and will need an email or letter attesting that the equipment is gone from your possession and noting the method of disposal.

See below for statutory and regulatory references:

- It is unlawful for any person to produce radiation, or produce, use, store or ***dispose of...radiation machines***, or to modify, extend or alter these activities unless he registers in writing with the department of health and senior services in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the department. 192.440.1, RSMo.
- 19 CASR 20-10.030(2) The user shall notify the department in writing within (30) days of any change with respect to his/her radiation sources which may substantially increase or decrease the potential for personnel exposure.
- Beyond notifying MRCP in writing of the deposition of the equipment, there is **no radiation safety issue with disposal of the machine itself. If the x-ray machine is not powered on, it does not produce radiation.** *However,* Note that if the equipment is old (pre-1980) it may contain PCB as part of the coolant oil and have to be disposed of as hazardous waste per MO DNR requirements. But newer equipment made after 1980 can generally be treated as any other e-waste like a TV, etc for routine recycling or disposal (once dismantled and/or rendered incapable of exposure).
- **For older (pre 1980) equipment**, please see the Missouri Department of Natural Resources publication #2502, “Disposal of X-ray Equipment,” produced in conjunction with the Missouri Radiation Control Program <https://dnr.mo.gov/document-search/disposal-x-ray-equipment-pub2502/pub2502>
- Because of the potential for hazardous waste disposal issues as noted above, in most cases, if possible the most appropriate solution is to contact and have an x-ray service company vendor disassemble and remove the equipment professionally, although other disposal methods may be possible, per MO DNR document #2502 referenced above.

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