



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Sani-Bag+ and how does it work?

- The Sani-Bag+ is a commode and bedpan liner with waste treatment powder that enhances human waste management.
- It contains a gelling powder with an organic, decay catalyst and deodorizer that absorbs liquid waste for safe landfill disposal.
- The liner is placed in the commode or bedpan to create a barrier between human waste and the commode/bedpan. Once the Sani-Bag+ is used, the bag is removed, sealed, and disposed of.
- The waste treatment powder contained in each Sani-Bag+ can treat up to 32 ounces of liquid or solid waste; the powder will keep working until saturated.
- The Sani-Bag+ should be disposed of in the same manner as other incontinence products. It is 100% biodegradable (see *below*) and landfill approved.

What is the Sani-Bag+ made of?

- The liner is a 1.5 mil linear low density polyethylene film.
- The waste treatment powder contains three elements: a custom polymer powder for gelling liquid, a yeast based powder to mitigate odor and promote degradation, and a natural mineral deodorizer.

How does the Sani-Bag+ liner help prevent the spread of hospital-acquired infections?

- The Sani-Bag+ contains waste in a bag, versus the waste being directly in the commode or bedpan.
- Once the Sani-Bag+ is used, it is removed, sealed, and disposed of without the caregiver having direct contact with the waste, therefore eliminating the possibility of cross contamination from human urine and fecal matter microbes.
- There is no cross contamination of fecal coliforms and *E. coli* in the commode pails when using the Sani-Bag+. On the other hand, when abundant use of water is used to rinse the commode pail after use, fecal coliforms and *E. coli* remain on the surface of the pails (source: Research and Development Laboratory, Phillips Environmental Products, Incl, Belgrade, Montana).
- The gelling (which occurs in less than 30 seconds) prevents splashes of the waste into the care environment.
- The Sani-Bag+ significantly reduces the potential for transmission of harmful bacteria and spores to caregivers and patients.



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What types of bacteria does the Sani-Bag+ reduce the spread of?

- Clostridium difficile (*C. difficile*)
- Any other type of intestinal bacteria that manifests in human waste such as fecal coliforms (*Escherichia*, *Klebsiella*, *Citrobacter*).

Is the Sani-Bag+ biodegradable?

- The Sani-Bag+ is 100% biodegradable. It will fully biodegrade in commercial composting operations, buried in the ground, buried in landfills, or tilled into the soil.
- The bag is manufactured using ECM-treated plastic, which is a biodegradable additive that allows the bag to completely biodegrade into the soil.
- This additive does not affect shelf-life and does not rely on photosensitivity, or thermal sensitivity to photodegrade or thermally break down the plastics.
- Decomposition takes 9 months to 5 years depending on the amount of heat, pH, and oxygen in the disposal environment.
- Toxicity tests completed on the end product of degradation demonstrated that it should be safe under anticipated environmental exposures (source: *ChemRisk, A Service of McLarren/Hart, Inc.; Cleveland, Ohio, 2-16-99*).

How does the Sani-Bag+ save caregiver time?

- Proper commode cleaning takes caregivers an average of 7 minutes without the Sani-Bag+.
- Using the Sani-Bag+, the commode is cleaned properly in less than 1 minute, by removing the bag, sealing it, and disposing of it.

How does the Sani-Bag+ save money?

- The Sani-Bag+ costs \$1.48 per bag, at an average cost of \$8.88 per patient per day, based on six usages.
- Each case of *C. difficile* associated disease is associated with \$3,699 in excess healthcare costs, and 3.6 extra days of hospitalization (source: *Kyne L, Hamel MB, Polavaram R, Kelly CP. Health care costs and mortality associated with nosocomial diarrhea due to Clostridium difficile. Clin Infect Dis. 2002;34:346-53*). Prevention of *C. difficile* saves these excess costs.
- Reduced labor costs, due to the 6 minute reduction of caregiver time spent cleaning commodes.