

B&D Biomedical Waste Services

P.O. Box 1309
Okeechobee, FL 34973

T 863.763.3259 F 863.763.2253
E bd_biowaste@yahoo.com W www.bdbiowaste.com

B&D Biomedical Waste Services 'greens' garbage

Okeechobee based B&D Biomedical Waste Services is less than a year old, but its earth-friendly efforts will be felt for generations.

The local, family-owned company is Florida's leading supplier of medical waste disposal products and services. Health care professionals rely on B&D's licensed and experienced staff to collect, process and treat all medical waste products under stringent EPA, OSHA and state guidelines.

Previously, David and Pat Williams, long-time Okeechobee residents, launched the company in early 2010. They owned a successful vehicle towing company for more than 30 years and saw a need for a company to pick up and recycle medical "sharps"—insulin syringes, pen needles and lancets—in an environmentally responsible way.

B&D not only collects used sharps and needle containers from medical and dental offices, hospitals and other medical facilities, it also services house-bound clients, such as the elderly and disabled.

B&D transports contaminated sharps to a 4,000-square-foot commercial



waste treatment facility that has the capacity to process up to 12 tons of waste per day using autoclave technology. This technology uses heat, steam and pressure to sterilize every load in about 20 minutes.

Jeff Davis, general manager, said the company's on-site recycling facility is cost-efficient and environmentally responsible.

"Recycling keeps containers out of the landfill and keeps our costs down," he said. "Then we pass those savings on to our clients."

B&D makes sure employees stay current with all state and federal regulations, and works with clients to make sure their waste disposal processes are compliant and efficient.

While some vendors out-source the treatment or disposal of medical waste, B&D does it all and provides complete documentation in the form of manifests.

Davis said Okeechobee's central location allows B&D to provide daily, weekly, or monthly services to clients for a reasonable, flat fee. This flexibility and affordability convinced Jeanette Morris of CORA Rehabilitation Clinics to switch vendors.



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"The other company we were working with was killing us with fees," she said. "They would charge us for pickups—even on days we had nothing to pick up."

B&D, however, was willing to contract with CORA on an on-call basis.

"They are very customer-oriented and willing to do whatever possible to

accommodate us," she said.

In addition to location, Okeechobee's agricultural industry is also integral to B&D's growth. The bio-waste produced by the county's dairies, as well as by the horse farms in nearby Hobe Sound and Wellington, will play an important part in the company's future biofuel initiatives.

The community is also invested in B&D's success. The county's waste management department helped Davis brainstorm new ideas on how to treat and recycle waste, and the Business Development Board of Okeechobee offered marketing and promotional tools.

The company gives back to the community by volunteering with various groups and giving discounts to local customers. Davis and Williams coach youth football, basketball and baseball, and Williams is a former School Board Chairman. They're also members of the Farm Bureau and the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

The company employs 12 people now, and expects to double that number over the next year.

"The future is going to bring a lot to this county," Davis said. "We know it's going to grow."