What is claimed is:

1. A waste container comprising:

a base having a bottom wall, a side wall extending upwardly from the bottom wall and defining a receptacle for receiving medical waste; and

a lid assembly including a lid body configured for assembly to the base,

a cap portion connected to the lid body that covers an opening in the lid body, the opening sized to accept medical waste and restrict access to prevent individuals from reaching into the waste container through the opening,

a tether slidably connecting the cap portion to the lid body, and

a slot in the lid body to permit slidable movement of the tether through the slot such the cap can be moved from a resting position such that the opening is configured for receiving waste to a closed position such that the cap portion covers the opening.

2. The waste container of claim 1, wherein the opening is located in a forward portion of the lid body and the slot is located in a rearward portion of the lid body, the tether engages the slot such that the cap portion is permitted to move forwardly and rearwardly.

3. The waste container of claim 2, wherein the lid body includes a raised surface extending from an upper surface of the lid body that engages the cap portion when the cap portion is in the resting position.

4. The waste container of claim 3, wherein the cap portion includes a recess configured to engage the raised surface.

5. The waste container of any of claims 1-4, wherein the slot is located adjacent the raised surface.

6. The waste container of any of claims 1-4, wherein the slot is located within the raised surface.

7. The waste container of claim 6, wherein the raised surface defines a notched area, and the slot is located within the notched area.

8. The waste container of any of the preceding claims, wherein the opening is surrounded by a raised peripheral lip extending from an upper surface of the lid body, and the cap portion includes a peripheral channel to engage the raised peripheral lip.

9. The waste container of claim 8, wherein the cap portion includes at least a pair of locking tabs and lid body includes at least a pair of slits positioned to accept the locking tabs to lock the cap portion in a closed position.

10. The waste container of claim 9, wherein the locking tabs include radially projecting fins sized to provide an interference fit when sliding through the slits into the closed position and prevent removal of the cap portion from the lid body.

11. The waste container of any of the preceding claims, wherein the cap portion and tether are integrally formed.

12. The waste container of any of claims 2-11, wherein the forward portion and the rearward portion are tilted relative to each other.

13. The waste container of any of the preceding claims, wherein the lid assembly is made of a thermoplastic material.

14. A waste container lid assembly including a lid body configured for assembly to a container base, the waste container lid assembly comprising:

a cap portion connected to the lid body that covers an opening in the lid body, the opening located in a forward portion of the lid body and sized to accept medical waste and restrict access to prevent individuals from reaching into the waste container through the opening;

a tether engaging the slot and slidably connecting the cap portion to the lid body, permitting the cap portion to move forwardly and rearwardly; and

a slot located in a rearward portion of the lid body to permit slidable movement of the tether through the slot such the cap can be moved from a resting position such that the opening is configured for receiving waste to a closed position such that the cap portion covers the opening.

15. The waste container of claim 14, wherein the lid body includes a raised surface extending from an upper surface of the lid body that engages the cap portion when the cap portion is in the resting position.

16. The waste container of claim 15, wherein the cap portion includes a recess configured to engage the raised surface.

17. The waste container of any of claims 15-16, wherein the raised surface defines a notched area, and the slot is located within the notched area.

18. The waste container of any of claims 14-17, wherein the opening is surrounded by a raised peripheral lip extending from an upper surface of the lid body, and the cap portion includes a peripheral channel to engage the raised peripheral lip.

19. The waste container of claim 18, wherein the cap portion includes at least a pair of locking tabs and lid body includes at least a pair of slits positioned to accept the locking tabs to lock the cap portion in a closed position.

20. The waste container of claim 19, wherein the locking tabs include radially projecting fins sized to provide an interference fit when sliding through the slits into the closed position and prevent removal of the cap portion from the lid body.

CLAIMS

1. A waste container lid assembly comprising:

a lid body configured for assembly to a container base, the lid body having a forward portion with an opening sized to accept medical waste and restrict access to prevent individuals from reaching into the container base through the opening, and a rearward portion tilted relative to the forward portion, the rearward portion including a slot, the opening in the forward portion surrounded by a raised peripheral lip extending from an upper surface of the lid body; and

a cap portion connected to the lid body and sized to cover the opening in the forward portion of the lid body, the cap portion having a peripheral channel to engage the raised peripheral lip surrounding the opening of the lid body, the cap portion having a tether connected thereto, the tether engaging the slot in the rearward portion of the lid body and permitting the cap portion to move forwardly and rearwardly between the forward portion and the rearward portion of the lid body,

wherein the tether engages the slot such that moving the cap portion from a resting position on the rearward portion of the lid body such that the opening in the forward portion of the lid body is configured for receiving waste to a closed position such that the cap portion covers the opening in the forward portion of the lid body requires substantially only forward movement, and the cap portion includes at least a pair of locking tabs including radially projecting fins and the lid body includes at least a pair of slits positioned to accept the locking tabs to lock the cap portion in a closed position, the radially projecting fins sized to provide an interference fit when sliding through the slits into the closed position and prevent removal of the cap portion from the lid body.

2. The waste container lid assembly of claim 1, wherein the lid body includes a raised surface extending from an upper surface of the lid body that engages the cap portion when the cap portion is in the resting position.

3. The waste container lid assembly of claim 2, wherein the cap portion includes a recess configured to engage the raised surface.

4. The waste container lid assembly of claim 2, wherein the raised surface defines a notched area, and the slot is located within the notched area.

5. The waste container lid assembly of claim 2, wherein the slot is located adjacent the raised surface.

6. The waste container lid assembly of claim 2, wherein the slot is located within the raised surface.

7. The waste container of claim 6, wherein the raised surface defines a notched area, and the slot is located within the notched area.

8. The waste container lid assembly of claim 1, wherein the cap portion and tether are integrally formed.

9. The waste container lid assembly of claim 1, wherein the lid assembly is made of a thermoplastic material.