

Safe Needle Disposal

Do NOT Recycle Needles, Syringes, Lancets and Other Sharp Objects

These items are special care items and can cause harm to those handling the waste materials.



Disposal Guidelines

- Place used medical sharps in a hard plastic container that has a screw on lid, like an empty laundry detergent container. Do NOT store in glass bottles, coke bottles, milk jugs, aluminium cans or coffee cans.
- Label container “Do Not Recycle – Contains Sharps” on both sides.
- When container is halfway full you can dispose of it in your garbage cart. Do NOT place in the recycling cart.
- Never place loose sharps in the garbage or recycling carts.
- Put containers in the center of the garbage cart, with other waste surrounding it.

Other Disposal Options

- Contact a local medical facility or pharmacy to see if they accept used medical sharps from the community. Make sure to check with them to get their disposal guidelines.
- Mail-back programs are available to send used sharps to a licensed disposal facility. There may be a charge for this service. Check with your health care provider for a mail-back program recommendation.
- There are needle destruction devices, including needle cutters, that can be purchased for personal use and provide a safe way to dispose of needles.

Helpful Online Resources

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/disposal.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/waste/nonhaz/industrial/medical/disposal.htm>

<http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/>

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps/default.htm>



Got
questions,
call:



REMEMBER – Never place loose medical sharps in the garbage!

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