

Proper Disposal of Sharps Prevents Needlesticks and Other Accidents

Many people use sharps (needles, syringes, and lancets) as part of their home medical care. Proper disposal of sharps is important to the safety of the sharps user and to workers who handle trash. Follow the guidelines in this brochure to keep yourself and others safe.

At home use a container that is:

- leak proof
- shatter proof
- and puncture proof with a screw top.

Good choices are durable plastic bottles such as:



Bad choices are:

- glass containers
- aluminum containers
- metal cans with flimsy lids
- any cardboard containers

Place lancet or needle and syringe in the container IMMEDIATELY after using.

DO NOT:

- recap needles
- bend needles
- or break lancets.

Secure the screw top on the container.

Label the container "SHARPS."

DO NOT label it "Medical Waste," "Biohazard," etc.



When the home container is full, make sure the top is screwed on securely. Then apply tape around the top and the neck of the container.

The preferred method for final disposal is to:

- take the properly labeled and taped container to a hospital or nursing home. *Open this brochure for a list of disposal sites.*

OR

- put the sharps container in your trash to be discarded.

Do not include sharp items with your recyclables.

Never put Sharps Containers in a Recycling Bin!

