

Proper Disposal of Home-Generated Syringes and Needles

You can help prevent injury, illness, and pollution by following the procedures listed below when disposing of needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects.

Home generated syringes and needles can carry disease-causing germs such as those that cause hepatitis or AIDS. These germs can enter the body, if the skin is punctured. It is important to clean and dispose of home-generated syringes and needles to avoid injury.

Safe Disposal

- Place sharps in a hard-plastic or metal container with a screw on or tightly secured lid. Do not put sharps in any container you plan to recycle, and do not use glass or clear plastic containers. Before you discard the container make sure you reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape. Special containers are available, and may be purchased, for disposal of medical waste sharps. Contact your local pharmacy to see if they carry sharps containers and have a program for disposal.
- If you find a syringe or needle, **DO NOT** pick it up with your bare hands. Use a thick towel, shovel, and/or broom and dustpan to pick it up.
- When disposing of other medical waste such as gloves, bandages, disposable sheets, etc., place them in securely fastened heavy plastic bags before you put them in the garbage can with your other trash.
- Home generated syringes and needles must be disposed of in accordance with the guidelines from the health department in your county. Rules from county to county may vary. Contact your county health department for proper disposal techniques and more information.

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