In some areas it is illegal to dispose of sharps in the trash. Please follow your community guidelines. Report problems associated with sharps and sharps disposal containers to the FDA (800-FDA-1088).

FREE sharps containers may be available from your doctor, hospital, health insurance or medication supplier. You can also buy a sharps container from your pharmacist or online.

DO NOT throw loose sharps in trash
DO NOT put sharps in recycling
DO NOT flush sharps down toilet
KEEP OUT of reach of children

WARNING
Needle stick injury can expose you to infectious diseases such as Hepatitis and HIV.

TO AVOID INJURY...
Do not force sharps into container
Do not put fingers inside container
Do not remove needle
Do not bend or break needle
Do not recap needle

DO NOT put sharps in recycling
DO NOT flush sharps down toilet
KEEP OUT of reach of children

USE A SHARPS CONTAINER

These are sharps

Syringes
Needle connectors
Lancets
Needles
Auto injectors
Infusion sets

KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE

GET A SHARPS CONTAINER

FREE sharps containers may be available from your doctor, hospital, health insurance or medication supplier. You can also buy a sharps container from your pharmacist or online.

Portable travel containers
Sharps container with vertical drop slot
Sharps container with horizontal drop slot

DO NOT throw loose sharps in trash
DO NOT put sharps in recycling

DO NOT flush sharps down toilet
KEEP OUT of reach of children

BE SMART WITH SHARPS

7 BILLION SHARPS ARE DISCARDED IN THE TRASH EVERY YEAR.
Up to 850,000 people are injured every year by sharps that are not discarded properly. Used sharps can cut people, infect them and spread disease.


DO NOT put sharps in recycling
DO NOT flush sharps down toilet
DO NOT put sharps in recycling
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Use a Sharps Container

1. Visually check sharps container for hazards before handling. Read all labels.
   MAKE SURE: container is not overfilled or damaged.

2. Put sharp in container immediately after use.
   Keep your hands behind the sharp tip.

Discard a Sharps Container

Stop using sharps container when 2/3 full or filled to FULL line.

1. Close sharps container as instructed on label.
   Different containers have different closures.

2. Bring sharps container to a sharps disposal program.

If You Cannot Get a Sharps Container...

FDA RECOMMENDS ALWAYS USING FDA-CLEARED CONTAINERS

If you do not have a sharps container, use an empty household container with these features:

- Stays upright
- Tight-fitting lid that cannot be punctured
- Made of heavy-duty plastic
- Does not leak

DO NOT USE: These containers can break or puncture easily.
- Milk container
- Soda can
- Glass container
- Water bottle

Dispose of a household sharps container when it is 2/3 full:


2. Bring container to a sharps disposal program.

TYPES OF SHARPS DISPOSAL PROGRAMS:

- Mail-back program
- Drop box or supervised collection site
- Special waste pick-up service
- At-home needle destruction device
- Syringe exchange program (SEP)
- Hazardous waste collection site

For information about rules and laws in your community, contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at 800.643.1643. For more information on sharps visit fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal or safeneedledisposal.org.

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