

SHARPS

Disposal



ALWAYS USE A SHARPS CONTAINER

Used sharps are hazardous waste. When not discarded properly, they can cut and infect others. Protect your community by always discarding your used sharps in a sharps disposal 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.



IF YOU CANNOT GET AN FDA-CLEARED SHARPS CONTAINER, FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

Use an empty household container with these features:

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

DO NOT USE: milk containers, water bottles, glass containers, or soda cans. These containers can break or puncture easily.



Discarding a household container:

1. Close lid and tape shut. Label container.
2. Bring container to a sharps disposal program.

If you cannot find a disposal program, put container in center of full trash bag and discard in regular trash.*

*In some areas, it is illegal to dispose of sharps in the trash. Please follow your community guidelines.



ALWAYS REMEMBER

- **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

For information about rules and laws in your community, contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at: 800-643-1643.

Information gathered from [FDA.GOV](https://www.fda.gov).