

Do NOT RECYCLE Used Sharps!

When your container is almost full with used sharps, bring it to a safe disposal site. Here are some ways to find safe disposal sites near you:

- You can bring used sharps to any hospital or health clinic in Maine.
- There are needle exchange programs that operate out of Portland, Bangor, Waterville, Ellsworth, and Machias. For more information, contact the following agencies:

Portland Public Health
Eastern Maine AIDS Network (Bangor)
Health Reach Behavioral Health Services (Waterville)
Down East AIDS Network (Ellsworth & Machias)

- The American Diabetes Association sells a container that safely holds used sharps. When it is full, you mail it back to the American Diabetes Association. Call 1-800-232-2737 for information. Or, ask your diabetes educator or local American Diabetes Association office about this program and other sharps disposal programs in your area.
- The place where you live may have special hazardous waste collection days or drop-off days. Get the number of your local public works department from the white pages of your phone book.

Learn More About Safe Sharps Disposal...

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
Visit: www.cdc.gov/needledisposal to learn about sharps disposal in general.

American Diabetes Association
Call 1-888-232-2737 or visit www.BDdiabetes.com to learn about their mail-in sharps disposal program.

Organization Name/Logo Here
Call [phone number] or visit [website] for more information about needle exchange programs in your area.

Brochure developed by:

M**INE**
Community AIDS Partnership

Safe Needles Initiative
www.mcap.org



Brochure materials adopted from the State of New York

How to
Safely
Dispose of

Household Sharps



How to Safely Dispose of Household Sharps

Millions of people use needles, syringes, and lancets at home to care for their health. These needles, syringes, and lancets are called sharps.

Used household sharps must be stored safely and disposed of properly to protect people from diseases. Used sharps may hold blood infected by HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) or hepatitis C. Someone who accidentally gets cut by a used sharp could get infected by the blood.

Safe Disposal of Used Sharps:

- Protects children, pets, and workers who handle trash and recyclables from illness and injury.
- Prevents sharps from being re-used or shared, which can spread diseases.
- Protects the environment.

You can bring used sharps to any hospital or health clinic in Maine.

How to Store Your Used Sharps

Here are the best ways to store used sharps until you can safely dispose of them:

DO...

- Put used sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) in a sharps container. You can buy containers at your local drugstore. If you do not have a sharps container, use a plastic bottle that cannot be broken or punctured, such as a bleach bottle or laundry detergent bottle. Close the screw-on cap tightly. Put tape over the cap and write, "CONTAINS SHARPS" on the bottle.



- Put sharps into your container as soon as you use them. Keep the container closed and away from children and pets.

- Bring your container with you when you travel.



DON'T...

- Don't put your used sharps container in the trash.
- Don't flush used sharps down the toilet or drop them into a sewer drain.
- Don't clip, bend, or put the cap back on used sharps.
- Don't put loose used sharps or your used sharps container in with the recyclables.
- Don't put used sharps in soda cans, milk cartons, glass bottles, or containers that can be broken or punctured. Coffee cans are not safe because the plastic lids come off easily and may leak.

