

Disposal Guidelines by State for Home-Generated Sharps

Home-generated sharps include hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets used to treat chronic conditions such as, diabetes, allergies, arthritis, osteoporosis, multiple sclerosis, hepatitis B and HIV. Individuals who use needles at home are responsible for ensuring proper disposal. Safe disposal helps protect workers and the public from unnecessary injury and possible infectious disease transmission. **Contact your medical provider, pharmacy, fire station, or household hazardous waste facility to determine if disposal options are available in your local area.**

Guidelines for States who **DO NOT** Permit Sharps Disposal in Household Garbage



California

California has industry-run statewide stewardship programs that provide safe and convenient disposal options for home-generated sharps waste. MED-Project and The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation currently provide sharps waste containers & mail-back services at no cost to the consumer.

Massachusetts, Oregon, Wisconsin

Legally prohibit disposing of sharps waste in trash or recycling containers and require all sharps be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container. If you do not have access to a sharps container & live in MA or WI you may place sharps in a puncture resistant container for transport. Local collection centers may include pharmacies, hospitals, and household hazardous waste facilities. Additional options may include a mail-back, exchange program, medical waste collection or needle destruction device.

Washington

Seattle/Parts of King County — legally prohibit disposing of sharps in trash or recycling containers. For more information, call King County Health Department, (206) 263-8899.

Guidelines for States who **DO** Permit Sharps Disposal in Household Garbage



Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming

Recommended disposal solutions may include:

- Place sharps in a commercially available sharps container or a puncture resistant plastic or metal container with a tightly secured screw-on lid. Do not use a clear or glass container.
- Label container with SHARPS/DO NOT RECYCLE.
- Seal the container with heavy-duty tape.
- Place sealed container in TRASH bin (not recycling).

Additional options include a mail-back program (fees apply), syringe exchange program, medical waste collection program, or sharps needle destruction device to destroy used needles (free to Maine residents).

Mississippi — local drop-off programs are free.

Washington — excludes Seattle and part of King County.

Additional Requirements for the Following States for Home-Generated Sharps

Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia

- Disinfect sharps using a 1:10 bleach and water solution. Soak contents for at least 20 minutes & drain.
- Label container "BIOHAZARD/DO NOT RECYCLE" in RED marker (District of Columbia only).
- Label container "NOT RECYCLABLE TREATED SHARPS" in permanent marker (West Virginia only).

Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Montana, New Mexico, South Carolina

- Add bleach to disinfect the needles (Montana and New Mexico only).
- Label container "BIOHAZARD" (Georgia and Hawaii only).
- Double bag and place sealed container in TRASH bin (not recycling) (Delaware only).
- Place warning stickers on container (South Carolina only - call 1.800.285.5257 for free stickers).

Louisiana

Sharps must be encased in plaster or in another substance as approved by the State Health Officer or in a sharps container of standard manufacture or other similar container of a type approved by the State Health Officer. The waste must be packaged to assure that there will be no leakage, even if the original package is violated (generally, this means double bagging, or placing sharps containers in a second rigid disposal container). This packaged sharps container may be placed in TRASH bin (not recycling). Additional options may include a mail-back (fees apply), exchange program, medical waste collection, or a needle destruction device.

New Jersey

New Jersey state law requires destroying needles and syringes prior to disposal. Follow the below guidelines:

- Use a needle clipper purchased at the pharmacy to clip the needle.
- Carefully place each of the used needles in a commercially available sharps container or a puncture resistant plastic or metal container with a tightly secured screw-on lid. Do not use a clear or glass container.
- Label container with SHARPS/DO NOT RECYCLE.
- Seal the container tightly with its original lid and heavy-duty tape.
- Place sealed container in TRASH bin (not recycling).

Residents may also participate in a safe disposal program through their local hospital. Participating hospitals offer rigid containers to dispose of these items for a fee and do not require needles to be clipped prior to placing them in the container. The container must be returned to the hospital when full for proper disposal and will be exchanged for a new container.

New York

New York state law allows disposal of home-generated sharps in a regular trash container; however, local laws may prohibit. Hospital and nursing homes are required by law to accept properly contained sharps. Local healthcare providers may also accept sharps for disposal. For proper containment, follow the below guidelines:

- Place sharps in a commercially available sharps container or a puncture resistant plastic or metal container with a tightly secured screw-on lid. Do not use a clear or glass container.
- Label container with CONTAINS SHARPS with waterproof marker directly on the container.
- Seal the container with heavy-duty tape.
- Place sealed container in TRASH bin (not recycling).

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AK	https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/solid-waste/how-do-i-dispose-of/medical-waste/	NC	https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/solid-waste-section/medical-waste/medical-waste-guidance-and-interpretation#Sharps-3012
AL	http://adem.alabama.gov/programs/land/landforms/sharpsMgmtFactSheetJuly2010.pdf	ND	https://deq.nd.gov/WM/InfectiousWaste/HouseholdInfectiousWaste.aspx
AR	https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/Visual_Aid_Needles_and_Sharps_Fact_Sheet.pdf	NE	http://www.deq.state.ne.us/NDEQProg.nsf/PubsForm.xsp?databaseName=CN=DEQSER6/O=NDEQ!!%20Publica.nsf&documentId=081310BB5E07A8048625696D0057ED27&action=editDocument
AZ	https://azdeq.gov/Sharps	NH	https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbmet341/files/documents/2020-01/bmp-household-sharps.pdf
CA	https://calrecycle.ca.gov/epr/pharmasharps/sharps/	NJ	http://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phss/syringe.pdf https://nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phss/safe_syringe_disposal.pdf
CO	https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/household-needles-and-sharps	NM	https://www.env.nm.gov/solid-waste/recycling-composting-and-diversion/
CT	https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Waste-Management-and-Disposal/What-Do-I-Do-With#Sharps	NV	https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/proper-medication-disposal/
DE	https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/waste-hazardous/management/infectious/	NY	http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/9082.html
DC	http://ddoe.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/publication/attachments/Sharps%20Disposal.pdf	OH	http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/34/document/guidance/gd_462.pdf
FL	http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/home-management-of-sharps.html	OK	https://www.deq.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/SafeSharpsDisposal.pdf
GA	https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/static/departments/solidwaste/Gwinnett-Co_OPT-English_Summer_2014.pdf	OR	http://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/healthy-home/common-hazardous-products/medical-waste-or-sharps
HI	http://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/files/2013/06/medwaste1.pdf	PA	https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/2324/sharps_disposal_pa_dep?bidId=
IA	https://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/waste/swa_sharpsandmedicationwebpage.pdf	RI	https://www.rirrc.org/sites/default/files/2017-02/Sharps%201-pager.pdf
ID	https://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-management-and-remediation/solid-waste/residential-household-wastes/	SC	http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Recycling/DisposingofNeedles/
IL	https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/medication-disposal/sharps.html	SD	https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/WasteManagement/SolidWaste/MedicalWaste.aspx
IN	https://www.in.gov/idem/health/2453.htm	TN	https://www.tn.gov/environment/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-program/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-collection-event-schedule0.html
KS	https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1338/Safe-Disposal-of-Medical-Sharps	TX	https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/gi/gi-418-print.pdf
KY	https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Waste/recycling-and-local-assistance/Documents/SharpsDisposalFactSheet.pdf	UT	https://www.beaver.utah.gov/432/Disposal-of-Unused-Medicines-Syringes
LA	http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/Center-CH/infectious-epi/EpiManual/NeedleDisposalManual.pdf	VA	https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=2483
MA	https://www.mass.gov/doc/proper-use-and-disposal-of-needles-and-syringes-2023/download_ga=2.202736401.1488676388.1690998500-541107879.1690998500	VT	https://dec.vermont.gov/content/safe-disposal-sharps
MD	https://frederickcountymd.gov/4915/SharpsSyringe-Disposal http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DepHowDoI/material.aspx?tag=syringes&material_key=26	WA	https://healthonline.washington.edu/sites/default/files/record_pdfs/Safe-Disposal-Sharps.pdf https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/hiv-std/patients/drug-use-harm-reduction/needle-disposal.aspx
ME	https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/biomedical/sharps.html	WI	http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/HealthWaste/HouseholdSharps.html
MI	https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/whm-stsw-sharps-collection-list_196524_7.pdf	WV	https://oehs.wvdhhr.org/media/nk0jgs40/final-household-sharps-fact-sheet-2021.pdf
MN	https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hhw4-67.pdf	WY	https://safeneededisposal.org/states/wyoming/
MO	https://dnr.mo.gov/waste-recycling/business-industry/guidance-technical-assistance/infectious-waste-management		
MS	https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/land/waste-division/solid-waste-management-programs/household-sharps-disposal/		
MT	https://deq.mt.gov/Portals/112/Land/SolidWaste/Documents/docs/SafeNeedleDisposal.pdf		

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