

Protect Yourself, Protect Your Community



Safe Options for Household Sharps Disposal

DON'T

- Put needles and lancets in the trash
- Put needles and lancets in recycling containers
- Take needles and lancets to medication collections
- Flush needles and lancets down the toilet

DO

- Package needles and lancets safely
- Dispose of needles and lancets using one of the options listed on this poster

Package needles and lancets safely:

- Recap your own discarded sharps or clip the needle points.
- Put the sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a secure lid or cap.
- Clearly label the container with the words "bio-hazard," "infectious waste," or "sharps."
- When the container is full, seal it and dispose of it safely with one of the options below.

Use one of these safe disposal options:

- Bring the container to a registered sharps collection station. Go to dnr.wi.gov and search "healthcare waste" to find a station near you.
- Ask your doctor, clinic or local hospital if you can bring sharps to their location for disposal.
- Call your local pharmacy, public health department, solid waste department, or streets department to learn about other local disposal options.
- Use a sharps mail-back program.

What are the dangers of used sharps?

Used needles and lancets can stick waste disposal workers when they are thrown away in the trash or recycling, brought to medication collections, or flushed down the toilet. Any worker accidentally stuck with a needle must get expensive medical testing and worry about the possibility of harmful or deadly diseases such as Hepatitis and HIV. However, needle-stick injuries are a preventable health risk. Package and dispose of sharps safely to avoid exposing yourself and others to harm.

For more information on managing medical sharps, go to dnr.wi.gov and search "healthcare waste."



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources • Waste and Materials Management Program • PO Box 7921 • Madison, WI 53707

For more information on managing household medical sharps, contact DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov or 608-266-2111.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan.

If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-266-2111 for more information.

PUB WA-1636-2013



YOUR LOCAL DISPOSAL OPTIONS: