



## Disposal Tips for Home Health Care Sharps Waste

Home health care waste includes used “sharps” such as needles, syringes, and lancets. Used sharps should be properly disposed of to prevent injury and illness. You can properly dispose of used sharps in your household trash by following a few simple steps.

1

Place used sharps in a biohazard container or other puncture-resistant, hard plastic or metal container such as an empty detergent bottle with a screw on lid.



2

Close the container with its original lid and secure with heavy duty tape.



3

Place the tightly sealed container in a paper bag and discard in your household trash.



### Dos and Don'ts



**DO:**

- Do place sharps in a biohazard container or other opaque, puncture-resistant container.
- Do seal lids on containers with heavy duty tape.
- Do label container “DO NOT RECYCLE.”
- Do keep sharps containers out of reach of children and animals.



**DON'T:**

- Don't place loose sharps in trash or toilet.
- Don't label container as medical waste.
- Don't clip needles with scissors or other tools.
- Don't place containers with used sharps in recycling.

### Other Disposal Methods

- Ask your doctor if they accept used sharps.
- Contact your local hospital to ask if they accept used sharps.
- Check with your local pharmacy to see if they sell specially designed sharps containers.
- If your community is served by a regional household hazardous waste collection facility, ask if they accept sharps.
- If returning sharps to one of these locations, follow the three steps above to secure the sharps and transport to the disposal location.

For more information on proper disposal of used sharps and other household health care waste, scan the QR code:

