

Safe Sharps Disposal

Learn how to safely dispose of used sharps including needles, lancets and syringes.

Expanded Syringe Access Program

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 from 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 nursing home in New York State. Call first to find out hours, days, and a location where you can bring used sharps.



Storing Your Used Sharps

What To Do:

Put used sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) in a sharps container.

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 an appropriate container with you when you travel.

What Not To Do:

Don't put your used sharps container in the trash.

Don't flush 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 sharps or sharps containers 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.

Where to Obtain Sharps Containers

You can buy containers at your local drugstore.

You can obtain them from a Syringe Exchange Program.

You can get sharps containers from programs that have registered with the NYS Safe Sharps Collection Program. Visit them at: health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/harm_reduction/needles_syringes/sharps/docs/alternate_sites.pdf

The American Diabetes Association sells home sharps containers. Visit the following website to obtain them: americandiabeteswholesale.com/product/bd-home-sharps-container_1240.htm



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 the sharps containers to any hospital or nursing home in New York State. They are mandated by law to accept them. Call first to find out hours, days, and a location where you can bring used sharps. Visit the NYS Safe Sharps Collection Program at:
health.ny.gov/sharps-collection

Some drugstores, health clinics, community-service agencies and other settings have large metal boxes (called kiosks) for sharps disposal. Syringe Exchange Programs also accept them. To find a kiosk near you call or visit:

NYS Department of Health HIV/AIDS Information Line: 1-800-541-2437
health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/harm_reduction/needles_syringes/sharps/docs/alternate_sites.pdf

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 blue pages of your phone book.

Learn More About Safe Sharps Disposal

New York State Department of Health

To find a hospital, nursing home or other settings for safe sharps disposal near you:

HIV/AIDS Information Line: 1-800-541-2437

health.ny.gov/sharps-collection

Growing Up Healthy Hotline: 1-800-522-5006 (TTY: 1-800-655-1789)

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps/ucm20025647.htm

Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal

1-800-643-1643

safeneedledisposal.org/

BD Diabetes Mail-In Disposal Program

To learn about the mail-in sharps disposal program:

1-888-232-2737

bd.com/us/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=7002&id=7415

