



Household needles and sharps

PROCEDURES

1. Use a strong plastic or metal container with a screw-on or tightly-secured lid to prevent accidental contact with the waste. You can also purchase a commercially available sharps container from a pharmacy or other source.
 - Containers like empty bleach bottles, liquid detergent bottles, and heavy plastic jugs are strong enough to prevent the sharps from poking through the container and have lids that can be securely fastened. The thicker the wall, the safer the container.
 - A coffee can may also be used as long as the lid is sealed with strong tape once the container is full.
 - Plastic milk containers and water bottles are a poor choice because they're generally made of thin plastic that can be easily punctured by a needle.
 - Glass should never be used as a sharps container because the glass can break and make the hazard worse.
2. Containers of sharps should be clearly labeled as "Sharps" or "Biohazard Waste."
3. Store the sharps container away from children and pets.
4. When the container is 3/4-full, seal the container and reinforce its lid with heavy-duty tape to prevent accidental tampering.
5. Place the sealed sharps container in your trash on the day it gets picked up, or take it to the landfill.

NOTE: NEVER PUT A CONTAINER OF SHARPS IN WITH YOUR RECYCLABLES.

- SHARPS ARE NOT RECYCLABLE and not only can they pose an infection risk to workers at the recycling facility, they can render the whole batch of recyclables unusable.
- Used needles and other sharps should never be placed loosely in your trash or flushed down the toilet.

What to Do with Used Sharps

Put used sharps in a strong, heavy-duty plastic container.

When the container is 3/4 full, put the lid on, seal it with duct tape, and label DO NOT RECYCLE.



Put the plastic container in the household trash,
Do Not Recycle!



Sharps should never be thrown loosely
into the trash or toilet.

Sharps that retract after use, or are very small,
should be disposed of like all other sharps.