

How to properly dispose of your injectables and sharps

Do it yourself

Dispose of medical needles in a puncture-proof, non-clear dark plastic container. Carefully place all needles in the container, fill the container $\frac{3}{4}$ full, seal with a lid, tape closed and mark clearly on the container "Do Not Recycle." Once completed, place the container in a dark plastic trash bag, seal the bag closed and place in your trash bin for normal pick-up. Do not flush sharps down the toilet or dispose of sharps directly into a trash bag.

Ideal examples of containers that can be reused include bleach, detergent and fabric softener bottles. Other options include using at-home incendiary devices for sharps disposal or needle cutters.



Why is it important to dispose of your sharps properly?

In the United States, there are limited options to properly dispose of sharps. Improper disposal of sharps is an issue for human health and the environment. There are approximately 9 million syringe users self-administering approximately 3 billion injections each year. Many self-injectors improperly dispose of their syringes by throwing them uncontained in the trash or flushing them down the toilet. These methods put others at risk. Please properly dispose of your sharps by the DIY or mail-back methods described on the reverse side of this flyer.

Pharmaceutical Mail-Back Programs

Mail it out

Several companies offer reputable mail-back kits that comply with government and agency regulations. The kits are designed to have syringes, lancets and other sharps sent safely through the mail.

Enbrel

Call 888-436-2735 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

Stericycle

Call 866-783-9816 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

Sharps Assure

Call 855-974-2777 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

Republic Sharps

Call 855-737-7871 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

Orencia

Call 800-673-6242 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

SimponiOne

Call 877-227-3728 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

Trulicity

Call 844-878-4636 to receive a free sharps container.

Consentyx

Call 844-267-3689 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

Otrexup

Call 855-687-3987 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

Cimplicity

Call 844-599-2273 to receive a free sharps container.

Firazyr/OnePath

Call 866-888-0660 to receive a free sharps container.

Rasuvo

Call 855-336-3322 to enroll in the sharps mail-back program.

The above information is provided by [safeneedledisposal.org/](https://www.safeneedledisposal.org/)

“Sharps” is a medical term for devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin. Sharps may be used at home, at work, and while traveling to manage the medical conditions of people or their pets. These medical conditions include allergies, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, infertility, migraines, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, blood clotting disorders, and psoriasis.

Examples of sharps include:

- **Needle** – a very fine, slender, hollow piece of metal used to inject medication under the skin.
- **Syringe** – device which a needle is attached to in order to inject medication into or withdraw fluid from the body.
- **Lancet** also called a “fingerstick” – instruments with a short, two-edged blade used to get drops of blood for testing. Lancets are commonly used in the treatment of diabetes.
- **Auto injector**, including epinephrine pens – syringe pre-filled with fluid medication designed to be self-injected into the body.
- **Infusion set** – tubing system with a needle used to deliver drugs to the body.
- **Connection needle/set** – needle that connects to a tube used to transfer fluids in and out of the body. This is generally used for patients on home hemodialysis.

(Source: SafeNeedleDisposal.org)