



# Sharps Disposal at Home:

## *How to Keep Everyone Safe – Disposing of Needles Properly*

### How to Dispose of Sharps

The word 'sharps' is another word for needles. Safely packaging sharps for disposal involves a few basic steps:

1. **Place the sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a secure lid or cap.**

**Acceptable** containers include:

- Containers made specifically for sharps
- Thick-walled, rigid plastic detergent bottles with screw caps

**Unacceptable** containers include:

- Coffee cans (the lids are too easily punctured)
- Plastic milk jugs
- Plastic bags
- Pop cans or soda/water bottles

2. **If not using a pre-labeled sharps container, visibly label the sharps container "Sharps - BIOHAZARD" and "Do not recycle"**

**Do not fill past the "fill" line:**

- The "fill" line is roughly 2/3 (two-thirds) of the way up the container

3. **When the container is full or you decide to dispose of your sharps, seal and label it, store it out of reach of children, and dispose of it properly**

- In **Ohio**, sharps containers **can** be placed in the **regular trash**
- It **MUST** be sealed and labeled properly
- **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that you take it to a registered sharps collection station for disposal

4. **To find registered Sharps collection stations, contact:**

- Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management: 614-644-2621
- American Diabetes Association: 614-436-1917
- Columbus Public Health: 614-645-7417
- Mail-in sharps disposal programs
- Licensed infectious waste haulers

### For More Information

Disposing of sharps properly is not only the right thing to do, it is the law. Follow these simple guidelines and keep everyone in your community safe from needle stick injuries.

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management at 614-644-2621 or visit:

[epa.ohio.gov/dmwm](http://epa.ohio.gov/dmwm)

Lazarus Government Center  
50 W. Town St. Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 644-2621

**The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center Pharmacy is NOT a registered collection site and CANNOT collect any sharps for disposal.**

- If the sharps container is properly packaged for safe disposal, we will accept and dispose of sharps for client-owned Veterinary Medical Center patients.
- For your safety and the safety of our staff, we **CANNOT ACCEPT** sharps that are improperly packaged.
- Please refer to this brochure for appropriate sharps disposal packaging. You may purchase a sharps disposal container online or from a local pharmacy.

*This handout is intended to provide general information.*

*If you have **specific questions**, please contact the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center Pharmacy at **614-292-1010**.*

## ALWAYS USE A SHARPS CONTAINER

Used sharps are hazardous waste. When not discarded properly they can cut and infect others. Protect your community by always discarding your used sharps in a sharps disposal container.

**FREE** sharps containers may be available from your doctor, hospital, health insurance or medication supplier.



## KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE

**DO NOT**  
throw loose sharps in trash



**DO NOT**  
put sharps in recycling



**DO NOT**  
flush sharps down toilet

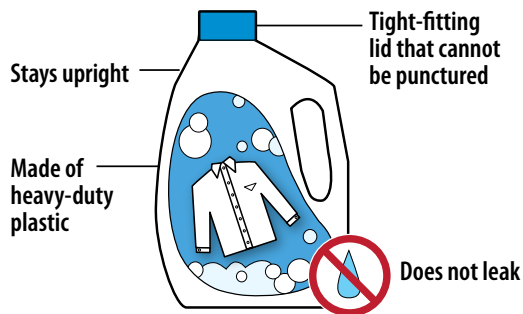


**KEEP OUT**  
of reach of children



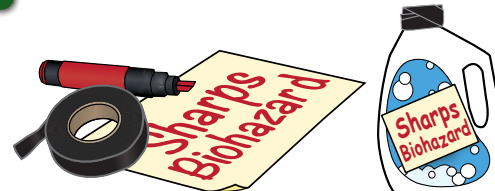
## IF YOU CANNOT GET AN FDA-CLEARED SHARPS CONTAINER, FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

Use an empty household container with these features:



Discarding a household container:

**1** Close lid and tape shut. Label container.



**2** Bring container to a sharps disposal program.

If you cannot find a disposal program, put container in center of full trash bag and discard in regular trash.



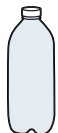
**DO NOT** put sharps containers in **RECYCLING!**

### DO NOT USE

These containers can break or puncture easily.



Milk container



Water bottle



Glass container



Soda can



For information about rules and laws in your community, contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at 800.643.1643. For more information on sharps visit [fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal](http://fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal).