

HOME GENERATED MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL GUIDE



Home-generated medical waste, including used needles and other sharps for self-administration or non-paid services, is a health risk to individuals and communities. Sharps are used in many medications and include things such as, needles, syringes, lancets, auto injectors, including epinephrine and insulin pens, infusion sets, and connection needles/sets.

Not disposing of sharps correctly can lead to accidental needle sticks, misuse, and injuries to people, pets, and wildlife. Sharps injuries can harm someone both physically and mentally. Getting injured with used sharps can lead to feelings of fear, anxiety and stress and result in a variety of blood borne pathogen infections, such as Hepatitis.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF SHARPS:

Sharps can be disposed of in containers made specifically to hold sharps, these may be provided by a healthcare professional or purchased at a pharmacy or online. If you do not have a container made specifically for sharps, a bottle with strong plastic, laundry detergent bottle or bleach bottle, may be used.

Some hospitals participate in Safe Syringe Disposal programs, where sharps in the proper container can be dropped off and disposed. Sharps can also be discarded in household trash when they are properly contained in the correct bottles.

SAFE SYRINGE DISPOSAL LOCATIONS

- **Capital Health System (Hopewell)** – 1 Capital Way, Pennington, NJ 08534 – 800-637-2374
- **Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center** – 1 Plainsboro Rd, Plainsboro, NJ 08536 – 866-460-4776
- **Hyacinth Foundation** - 849 W. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618



HOW TO DISPOSE IN HOUSEHOLD TRASH

- Use **rigid** containers with **strong** plastic and screw on caps – such as laundry detergent or bleach bottles. Do **NOT** use soda bottles, glass bottles or other containers where the cap can come off easily.
- **Avoid** removing, bending, breaking or recapping needles used by others to prevent needle sticks.
- Fill the container no more than **¾ full**, do not overfill. Close the cap each time a sharp is put into the container.
- **Seal** the container and wrap duct or electrical tape around the cap area.
- Label the bottle with a warning in permanent marker, such as **“CAUTION-SYRINGES/NEEDLES. DO NOT RECYCLE”**
- Keep containers out of reach of children and pets.
- When you are ready to throw away the container put it in the trash, **DO NOT RECYCLE.**



Sources:

New Jersey Department of Health: www.nj.gov/health/phss

Safe Needle Disposal: www.safeneedledisposal.org

FDA: FDA.Gov