



Proper Use and Disposal of Needles and Syringes

Be Smart. Be Careful. Be Aware. Be Safe.

If you are one of many patients who use syringes to manage your health care at home, here's is what you need to know about the safe use and disposal of needles, syringes and lancets (sharps).

Be Smart. Use a Sharps Container.

A sharps container is a single-use container that is filled with used medical needles and then disposed of safely. These can be purchased at medical supply stores or even ordered through the mail.

DO NOT put sharps containers in the garbage or with recyclables.

DO visit a medical supply store to purchase sharps containers.

DO check out these sharps mail back services. All provide a variety of container sizes and prepaid mailing cartons:

- **Medasend** **1-800-200-3581**
- **Sharps Compliance** **1-800-772-5657**
- **Sharps, Inc.** **1-877-633-7328**
- **Stericycle** **1-800-355-8773**

Be Careful.

Protect yourself, your community, your environment, your family, and your friends. The proper disposal of needles and syringes is important.

DO put used syringes in sharps container immediately.

DO keep needles away from children and pets.

DO bring a sharps container when traveling.

DO NOT throw used syringes in the garbage.

DO NOT flush used syringes down the toilet or drop into storm drains.

DO NOT clip, bend, or recap needles.

DO NOT throw used sharps in a recycling bin.

Be Aware.

Needles, syringes, and sharps containers may not be thrown in household trash or recycling bins. These items must be disposed of at a drop off site or through a medical mail back service.

Be Safe.

Reduce your risk of blood-borne diseases like hepatitis and HIV/AIDS.

DO use a new needle every time you inject.

DO clean the injection site with soapy water, alcohol swabs, or rubbing alcohol.

DO NOT inject in the same spot over and over again.

DO NOT share needles, syringes, lancets, or cotton swabs.