

# Disposal Tips for Household Generated Sharps

Household generated “sharps” include hypodermic needles and syringes, and Epi-pens. They are typically used in the home for insulin injection or for administering other medications. Household generated sharps should be disposed of appropriately to help prevent injury and illness to family members and waste handlers and reduce pollution to the environment.



## Environmental Sharps Management Options

1. *Needle Removal/Destruction Device* - Use a home sharps destruction device or needle clipper available from medical supply sources on-line. These tools safely store needles in a small container for easy and affordable disposal when full.
2. *Drop Off* - To find a place near you that takes sharps, go to <http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/>. The site includes both specialized sharps management facilities and trash disposal facilities.
3. *Mail-Back* - Use a private sharps mail-back program (see back for partial list or search the internet).
4. *Trash Disposal* - This least desirable disposal method is allowed by the State of NH, but it may not be allowed by your town—give your town a call. If you use this disposal method, place your sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container such as a bleach or laundry detergent bottle, duct tape the cap in place, mark the bottle “not for recycling,” and throw away with regular trash. Unfortunately, equipment may pop the bottle open during curbside collection or at the transfer station or landfill. This can make your sharps dangerous projectiles—so let your hauler or transfer station attendant know when you have a bottle of sharps. Do NOT put with recycling.

## Sample of Private Sharps Mail-Back Programs

Company	Web Site Address	Phone Number
Biomedical Waste Solutions	<a href="http://www.biomedicalwastesolutions.com/sharps-mail-back.php">www.biomedicalwastesolutions.com/sharps-mail-back.php</a>	877-974-1300
GRP & Associates	<a href="http://www.sharpsdisposal.com">www.sharpsdisposal.com</a>	800-207-0976
Sharps Assure	<a href="http://www.sharpsassure.com">www.sharpsassure.com</a>	855-974-2777
Sharps, Inc.	<a href="http://www.sharpsinc.com/residential">www.sharpsinc.com/residential</a>	800-772-5657
Stericycle	<a href="http://www.stericycle.com">www.stericycle.com</a> (Call to set up account)	866-783-7422
Waste Management, Inc.	<a href="http://www.thinkgreenfromhome.com/SyringesAndLancets">www.thinkgreenfromhome.com/SyringesAndLancets</a>	800-664-1434

The Department of Environmental Services regulates the disposal of household generated sharps: refer to EnvSw 904.01(b)(3). For further information on the infectious waste rules, as administered by the Department of Environmental Services, please contact the DES Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925.



UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE  
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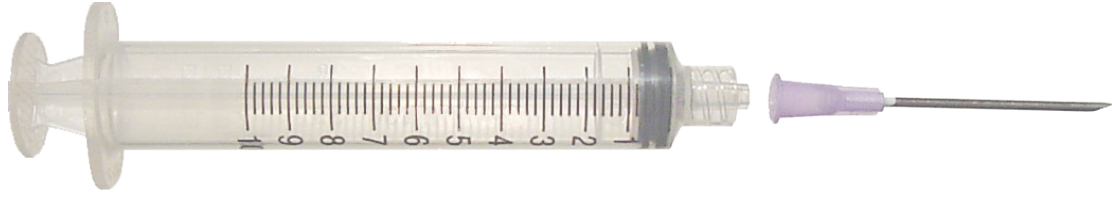
Help keep sharps from being thrown loose into the household trash or flushed down the drain. Needle stick injuries are a serious public health risk to family members, home health care providers and sanitation workers. Used needles can carry HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B & C, Tetanus, and other blood borne diseases.

It's easy to make your own Medical Sharps Container and the labels are already made for you so just click and print.

1. RE-USE a **thick-walled**, sturdy plastic container with a tight fitting screw cap, such as an empty recycled detergent bottle.
2. LABEL the container with one of the labels or write with a permanent magic marker, "Medical Sharps Container. Not for Recycling".
3. When the bottle is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, SEAL the containers cap with duct tape.
4. DISPOSE of the container into your household trash and **not** your recycling bin. No sticks no worries.



MEDICAL **SHARPS** CONTAINER!



**NOT FOR RECYCLING!**

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

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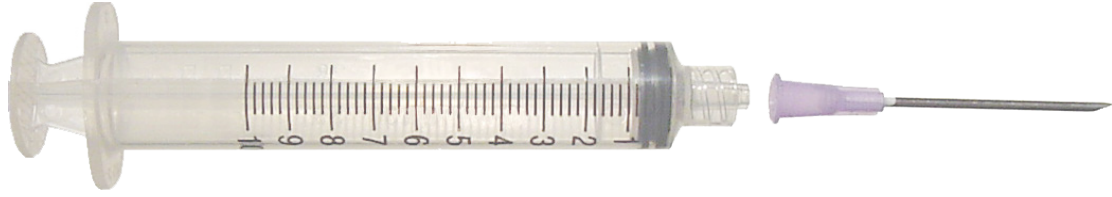
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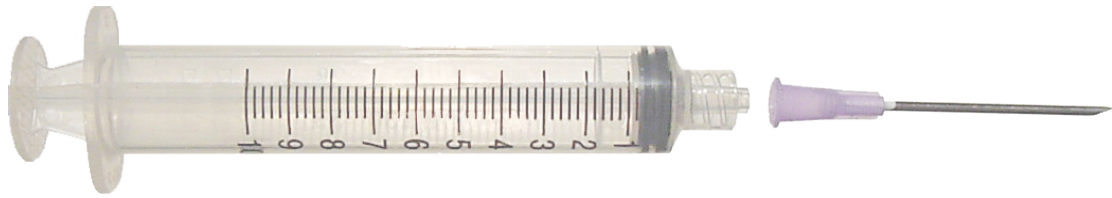
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