

Disposal Guidelines by State for Home Generated Sharps

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Home generated sharps include hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets used to treat chronic conditions such as, diabetes, allergies, arthritis, osteoporosis, multiple sclerosis, hepatitis B and HIV. Individuals who use needles at home are responsible for ensuring proper disposal. Safe disposal helps protect workers and the public from unnecessary injury and possible infectious disease transmission. **Contact your medical provider, pharmacy, fire station, or household hazardous waste facility to determine if disposal options are available in your local area.**

Guidelines for States who DO NOT Permit Sharps Disposal in Household Garbage	
California	NEW! California Senate Bill 212 requires pharmacies to provide a sharps waste container and mail-back materials at the point-of-sale for all home-generated sharps. This includes, but is not limited to hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles and lancets.
Massachusetts, Oregon, Wisconsin	Legally prohibit disposing of sharps waste in trash or recycling containers and require all sharps be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container. If you do not have access to a sharps container & live in MA or WI you may place sharps in a puncture resistant container for transport. Local collection centers may include pharmacies, hospitals, and household hazardous waste facilities. Additional options may include a mailback, exchange program, medical waste collection or needle destruction device.
Washington	Seattle/Parts of King County — legally prohibit disposing of sharps in trash or recycling containers. For more information, call King County Health Department, (206) 263-8899.

Guidelines for States who DO Permit Sharps Disposal in Household Garbage	
Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming	<p>Recommended disposal solutions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place sharps in a commercially available sharps container or a puncture resistant plastic or metal container with a tightly secured screw-on lid. Do not use a clear or glass container. Label container with SHARPS/DO NOT RECYCLE. Seal the container with heavy-duty tape. Place sealed container in TRASH bin (not recycling). <p>Additional options include a mail-back program (fees apply), syringe exchange program, medical waste collection program, or sharps needle destruction device to destroy used needles (free to Maine residents). Mississippi — local drop-off programs are free. Washington — excludes Seattle and part of King County.</p>

Follow Guidelines Above and Additional Requirements Below for the Following States:	
Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disinfect sharps using a 1:10 bleach and water solution. Soak contents for at least 20 minutes & drain. Label container "BIOHAZARD/DO NOT RECYCLE" in RED marker (District of Columbia only). Label container "NOT RECYCLABLE TREATED SHARPS" in permanent marker (West Virginia only).
Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Montana, New Mexico, South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add bleach to disinfect the needles (Montana and New Mexico only). Label container "BIOHAZARD" (Georgia and Hawaii only). Double bag and place sealed container in TRASH bin (not recycling) (Delaware only). Place warning stickers on container (South Carolina only – call 1.800.285.5257 for free stickers).
Louisiana	Sharps must be encased in plaster or in another substance as approved by the State Health Officer or in a sharps container of standard manufacture or other similar container of a type approved by the State Health Officer. The waste must be packaged to assure that there will be no leakage, even if the original package is violated (generally, this means double bagging, or placing sharps containers in a second rigid disposal container). This packaged sharps container may be placed in TRASH bin (not recycling). Additional options may include a mailback (fees apply), exchange program, medical waste collection, or a needle destruction device.
New Jersey	<p>New Jersey state law requires destroying needles and syringes prior to disposal. Follow the below guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a needle clipper purchased at the pharmacy to clip the needle. Carefully place each of the used needles in a commercially available sharps container or a puncture resistant plastic or metal container with a tightly secured screw-on lid. Do not use a clear or glass container. Label container with SHARPS/DO NOT RECYCLE. Seal the container tightly with its original lid and heavy-duty tape. Place sealed container in TRASH bin (not recycling). <p>Residents may also participate in a safe disposal program through their local hospital. Participating hospitals offer rigid containers to dispose of these items for a fee and do not require needles to be clipped prior to placing them in the container. The container must be returned to the hospital when full for proper disposal and will be exchanged for a new container.</p>
New York	<p>New York state law allows disposal of home generated sharps in a regular trash container; however, local laws may prohibit. Hospital and nursing homes are required by law to accept properly contained sharps. Local healthcare providers may also accept sharps for disposal. For proper containment, follow the below guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place sharps in a commercially available sharps container or a puncture resistant plastic or metal container with a tightly secured screw-on lid. Do not use a clear or glass container. Label container with CONTAINS SHARPS with waterproof marker directly on the container. Seal the container with heavy-duty tape. Place sealed container in TRASH bin (not recycling).

See reverse for links to additional information by state.

State Website Address

AK	https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/solid-waste/how-do-i-dispose-of/medical-waste/
AL	http://adem.alabama.gov/programs/land/landforms/sharpsMgmtFactSheetJuly2010.pdf
AR	https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/Household_Sharps_Disposal_11052019.pdf
AZ	https://azdeq.gov/Sharps
CA	https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB212
CO	https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/household-needles-and-sharps
CT	https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Waste-Management-and-Disposal/What-Do-I-Do-With#Sharps
DE	https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/waste-hazardous/management/infectious/
DC	http://ddoe.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/publication/attachments/Sharps%20Disposal.pdf
FL	http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/biomedical-waste/home-management-of-sharps.html
GA	https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/static/departments/solidwaste/Gwinnett-Co_OPT-English_Summer_2014.pdf
HI	http://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/files/2013/06/medwaste1.pdf
IA	http://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/waste/sw_sharps.pdf
ID	https://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-management-and-remediation/solid-waste/residential-household-wastes/
IL	https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/Documents/iepa/waste-management/medication-disposal/sharps-fact-sheet.pdf
IN	https://www.in.gov/idem/health/2453.htm
KS	http://www.kdheks.gov/environment/sharpsdisposal.html
KY	https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Waste/recycling-and-local-assistance/Documents/SharpsDisposalFactSheet.pdf
LA	https://www.lsu.edu/ehs/files/Disposal-of-Medical-Waste-Louisiana.pdf http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/Center-CH/infectious-epi/EpiManual/NeedleDisposalManual.pdf
MA	https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/11/05/Proper-use-and-Disposal-of-Needles-and-Syringes-October-2019.pdf?
MD	https://frederickcountymd.gov/4915/SharpsSyringe-Disposal http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DepHowDol/material.aspx?tag=syringes&material_key=26
ME	https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/biomedical/sharps.html
MI	https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/whm-stsw-sharps-collection-list_196524_7.pdf
MN	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11358
MO	https://dnr.mo.gov/waste-recycling/business-industry/guidance-technical-assistance/infectious-waste-management
MS	https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/land/waste-division/solid-waste-management-programs/household-sharps-disposal/
MT	https://deq.mt.gov/Portals/112/Land/SolidWaste/Documents/docs/SafeNeedleDisposal.pdf
NC	http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=40f9e8a6-c59b-4450-ae60-3470d040eddc&groupId=38361
ND	https://deq.nd.gov/WM/InfectiousWaste/HouseholdInfectiousWaste.aspx
NE	http://www.deq.state.ne.us/NDEQProg.nsf/PubsForm.xsp?databaseName=CN=DEQSER6/O=NDEQ!!%20Publica.nsf&documentId=081310BB5E07A8048625696D0057ED27&action=editDocument
NH	https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/sw-31.pdf
NJ	http://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phss/syringe.pdf https://nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phss/safe_syringe_disposal.pdf
NM	https://www.env.nm.gov/solid-waste/recycling-composting-and-diversion/
NV	https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/proper-medication-disposal/
NY	http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/9082.html
OH	http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/34/document/guidance/gd_462.pdf
OK	https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.productstewardship.us/resource/resmgr/2/ok/Sharps_Fact_Sheet.pdf
OR	http://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/healthy-home/common-hazardous-products/medical-waste-or-sharps
PA	https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/2324/sharps_disposal_pa_dep?bidId=
RI	https://www.rirrc.org/sites/default/files/2017-02/Sharps%201-pager.pdf
SC	http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Recycling/DisposingofNeedles/
SD	https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/WasteManagement/SolidWaste/MedicalWaste.aspx
TN	https://www.tn.gov/environment/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-program/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-collection-event-schedule0.html
TX	https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/gi/gi-418-print.pdf
UT	https://www.beaver.utah.gov/432/Disposal-of-Unused-Medicines-Syringes
VA	https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=2483
VT	https://dec.vermont.gov/content/safe-disposal-sharps
WA	https://healthonline.washington.edu/sites/default/files/record_pdfs/Safe-Disposal-Sharps.pdf https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/hiv-std/patients/drug-use-harm-reduction/needle-disposal.aspx
WI	http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/HealthWaste/HouseholdSharps.html
WV	http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvimw/pdf/syringe_disposal.pdf
WY	http://deq.wyoming.gov/media/attachments/Solid%20%26%20Hazardous%20Waste/Inspection%20%26%20Compliance/Guidance/SHWD_Inspection-and-Compliance_Medical-Waste-Treatment-guidance.pdf