

West Virginia Department of Health
and Human Resources

Bureau for Public Health

Office of Environmental Health Services

Infectious Medical Waste Program

Presents:



Disposal of Household Infectious Waste

Proper Disposal of Sharps

The responsible disposal of syringes and sharps is your part in protecting the public and the environment.

You can help prevent injury, illness and pollution by following some simple steps when you dispose of the sharp objects and contaminated materials you use in administering health care in your home.

To Properly Manage Your Sharps

You Should Place

- NEEDLES
- SYRINGES
- LANCETS, AND
- OTHER SHARP OBJECTS

**IN A HARD PLASTIC OR METAL CONTAINER
WITH A SCREW ON OR TIGHTLY FITTING LID**

Examples of Suitable Containers for Sharps Disposal

- A Coffee Can
 - The plastic lid must be securely fastened with heavy-duty packing tape
- A Liquid Laundry Detergent Container
- A Plastic Pop Bottle

Collecting Your Sharps

- USE THE CONTAINER TO STORE ALL SHARPS UNTIL IT IS FILLED HALF-WAY, THEN FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGES.
- BE SURE TO STORE YOUR COLLECTION CONTAINER AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND ANIMALS

Packaging Your Sharps Container for Disposal

- SHARPS MUST BE DISINFECTED PRIOR TO BEING PLACED INTO THE GARBAGE.
- MIX:
 - 1 TABLESPOON OF BLEACH, and
 - 1 PINT OF WATER (16 ozs.)
- POUR MIXTURE INTO CONTAINER AND SEAL

Label the Container Before Disposing

- USING A PERMANENT MARKER, WRITE THE FOLLOWING ON THE CONTAINER:

**TREATED SHARPS,
NOT RECYCLEABLE**

Disposing Your Disinfected and Labeled Container

- PLACE THE CONTAINER IN A GARBAGE BAG AND TAPE OR TIE THE OPEN END.
- PLACE THIS GARBAGE BAG INTO YOUR REGULAR GARBAGE.

Questions

- If You Have Any Questions Or Concerns About Disposing Your Household Sharps, Please Contact Us:

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