

1. West Virginia Dept. of Health and Human Resources
Bureau for Public Health
Office of Environmental Health Services
Infectious Medical Waste Program
presents:

2. **Proper Disposal of Household Sharps**

3. 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.

4. **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.

5. **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, or a plastic pop bottle.

6. **Collecting Your Sharps:**

Use the container to store all sharps until it is filled half-way, then follow the directions below. Be sure to store your collection container away from children and animals.

7. **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 oz.). Pour mixture into container and seal.

8. **Label the Container Before Disposing:**

Using a permanent marker, write the following on the container:

TREATED SHARPS, NON RECYCLEABLE

9. **Disposing Your Treated 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.

10. **Questions:** If you have questions or concerns about disposing your household sharps, please contact us.

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