

# Protect Yourself, Protect Your Community



## Safe Options for Household Sharps Disposal

### DON'T

- Put needles and lancets in the trash
- Put needles and lancets in recycling containers
- Take needles and lancets to medication collections
- Flush needles and lancets down the toilet

### DO

- Package needles and lancets safely
- Dispose of needles and lancets using one of the options listed on the back

## What are the dangers of used sharps?

Used needles and lancets can stick waste disposal workers when they are thrown away in the trash or recycling, brought to medication collections, or flushed down the toilet. Any worker accidentally stuck with a needle must get expensive medical testing and worry about the possibility of diseases such as Hepatitis and HIV. However, needle-stick injuries are a preventable health risk. Package and dispose of sharps safely to avoid exposing yourself and others to harm.



## Package needles and lancets safely:

- Recap *your own* discarded sharps or clip the needle points.
- Put the sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a secure lid or cap.
- Clearly label the container with the words "bio-hazard," "infectious waste," or "sharps."
- When the container is full, seal it and dispose of it safely with one of the options below.

## Use one of these safe disposal options:

- Bring the container to a registered sharps collection station. Go to **dnr.wi.gov** and search "**healthcare waste**" to find a station near you.
- Ask your doctor, clinic or local hospital if you can bring sharps to their location for disposal.
- Call your local pharmacy, public health department, solid waste department, or streets department to learn about other local disposal options.
- Use a sharps mail-back program.

For more information on managing medical sharps, go to **dnr.wi.gov** and search "**healthcare waste.**"



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Waste and Materials Management  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

For more information on managing household medical sharps, contact [DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov) or 608-266-2111.

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