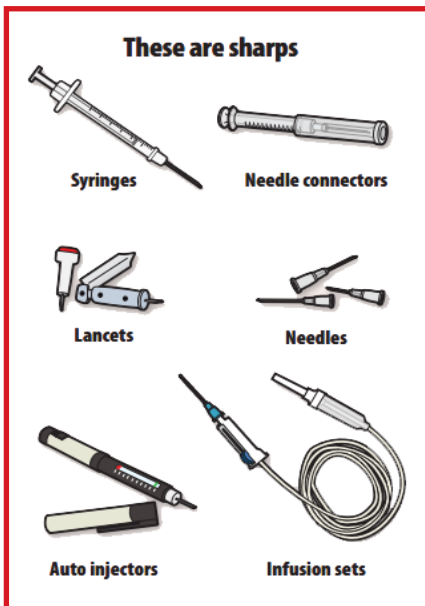


The Problem...

“Sharps” is a medical term for devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin. They may be used at home, at work, and while traveling to manage medical conditions.



In one year, approximately 9 million syringe users give 3 billion shots to themselves, their pets or others.

Nearly two-thirds of these “at-home” shots are for

the management of diabetes, allergies, infertility, arthritis, migraines, HIV, Hepatitis C and other ailments.

Many self-injectors are unaware of safe ways to get rid of the used needles and syringes and simply throw them in the trash or flush them down the toilet, which can cause injury or infection.

Safely getting rid of sharp objects, like needles, can prevent injury and disease. Ask your pharmacist or medical supply company if they take back used sharps:

1. If so, place all syringes, needles, lancets and sharp objects into a sharps container designed for this purpose and take the containers to the sharps return program;
2. If you cannot get a sharps container, use a thick plastic container with a lid, such as a laundry detergent bottle. Do not use plastic milk jugs or 2 liter soda bottles. Needles can puncture thin plastic;
3. Put sharps in the container point-first. Fill containers only 2/3 full;
4. Store with the cap screwed on tightly;
5. Add a few capfuls of bleach to the container; and
6. Label “**Do Not Recycle**”.
7. Put the container in the center of a full trash bag and throw away with the regular trash.



If You Cannot Get a Sharps Container...

FDA RECOMMENDS ALWAYS USING FDA-CLEARED CONTAINERS

If you do not have a sharps container, use an empty household container with these features:



DO NOT USE

These containers can break or puncture easily.



If you cannot find a disposal program, put container in center of full trash bag and discard in regular trash.*

DO NOT put sharps containers in **RECYCLING!**





KEEP NEEDLES OUT OF THE TRASH

Help Protect Others
from Needle Sticks
Which Can
Spread Disease

Online Resources:

Needy Meds

<http://www.safeneedledisposal.org>

Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/medical/>

Food and Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps/ucm20025647.htm>



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PROPERLY DISPOSE OF NEEDLES AND LANCETS

**BE SMART
WITH
SHARPS**



**Safe Disposal
of Needles in
the Home**