How to Safely Dispose of Home Medical Sharps

What is the Importance of Safe disposal Of Medical Sharps?

Proper disposal of sharp objects (sharps) helps prevent injury, illness and pollution.

- The Environmental Protection Agency monitors syringe and sharps disposal.
- You must properly dispose of syringes and sharps for your own safety and the safety of others.
- Home care providers and health care institutions are not allowed to pick up or receive medical waste or sharps from your home.
- Your state or community environmental program can suggest the proper way to dispose of your medical waste.

What Containers Can I Use to Dispose of Sharps?

- Use hard-plastic or metal containers with a screw-on or tightly secured lid
  - Household containers are fine (e.g., laundry detergent bottles).
  - Specially designed containers to dispose of medical waste sharps can be purchased.
  - Sharps container must be made of non-breakable material with a lid that can be securely closed.
  - Do not use glass, clear or thin plastic containers.
  - Keep out of the reach of children and pets.
- Recyclable containers can be used.
  - Separate from other recyclables.
  - Label container “Not for Recycling”.
  - Do not put sharp objects in any container you plan to recycle or return to a store.
- Place needles, syringes (even if no needle is attached), IV spike without an attached bag, lancets and other sharp objects into the container.
- Notify your home care provider (if they supply the sharps container) to deliver a new container when the one in use is approximately 75% full.
How do I Safely Dispose of the Sharps Container?

- Reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape before discarding.
- Contact the Department of Environmental Quality Assurance Center (1-800-662-9278) to find out if there’s a needle/sharp collection program in your area.
- Waste disposal varies from state to state. Check with your local environmental program to see how to properly dispose of your medical waste.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesee County</td>
<td>(810) 762-9116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ingham County</td>
<td>(517) 887-4312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>(517) 788-4420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenawee County</td>
<td>(517) 264-4508</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livingston County</td>
<td>(517) 546-0040</td>
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<td>Macomb County</td>
<td>(586) 469-5236</td>
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<td>Monroe County</td>
<td>(734) 240-7800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oakland County</td>
<td>(248) 858-1280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saginaw County</td>
<td>(989) 758-3800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washtenaw County</td>
<td>(734) 544-6700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>(734) 727-7000</td>
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Where can I Learn More?

- EPA. Protect Yourself Protect Others- Safe Options Home Needle Disposal (United States Government) - Handouts in English, Spanish and Chinese
- Sharp Collection Programs for Michigan Residents (State of Michigan)

Disclaimer:
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