



Safely Discarding Household Sharps



Waste Management is reminding customers who inject medications from home on how to properly discard household sharps. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each year 600,000 to 800,000 people are injured by sharps. Properly disposing of syringes and sharps is part of your responsibility in protecting your family and community members from potential needlestick injuries.

To learn more on the rules and regulations in your state visit: SafeNeedleDisposal.org. You can also purchase a special disposal container similar to those used by medical facilities.

Waste Management facilitates the "MedWaste Tracker" which is recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency for safe needle disposal. To learn more about MedWaste Tracker visit: ThinkGreenFromHome.com

You can help prevent those injuries by following a few simple steps when disposing of sharps and syringes.

- Sharps should **never** be thrown loosely into your curbside trash toter or recycling bin.
- Place sharps waste in a rigid, leak-proof container with a secure lid, such as a laundry detergent or bleach bottle.
- Use the container to store all sharps until it is filled half-way. Be sure to store your collection container away from children and animals.
- Sharps should be disinfected prior to being placed into the garbage. Mix: 1 tablespoon of bleach, and 1 Pint of water (16 Oz.). Pour the mixture into the container and seal.
- Label the container before disposing. Using a permanent marker, write the following on the container: **"TREATED SHARPS, NON RECYCLEABLE"**
- Tape or tie the open end of the container and place it in a garbage bag.