

How to Get Rid of Sharps (Needles and Lancets) Safely

Getting Rid of Sharps

Properly throwing away used sharps (needles and lancets) is important to keep your family and community safe. This prevents adults, children and pets from finding and being harmed by them.

How to Store Your Sharps at Home

You will need to have a special container to store your used sharps at home. You can:

- buy a sharps disposal container from your pharmacy.
- make your own container. Visit fda.gov and type “sharps disposal container” into the search box for instructions.

When storing sharps at home, it is important to remember the following.

- Always keep your sharps storage container in a place where children and pets cannot reach it.
- Follow any directions from your county drop-off site or mail-back programs.

How to Get Rid of Your Sharps

When the container is three-fourths full:

- return the sharps to your county drop-off site
- or
- send them to a mail-back program. You will have to pay for this.



Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Many pharmacies sell sharps containers.

Allina Health hospitals and clinics do not accept sharps. Please do not bring them to your hospital or clinic.

Whom to Call With Questions

Please call your city or county government’s household trash and recycling service with questions. You can also visit the following websites for more information.

- If you live in Minnesota, visit pca.state.mn.us.
- If you live in Wisconsin, visit dnr.wi.gov.

**Information adapted from the
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency,
Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board and
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.**