

SHARPS HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

Residential needles, syringes, and lancets (sharps) are **not** accepted at household hazardous waste collection sites.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 600,000 needle stick injuries occur each year in the United States among health care professionals and sanitation workers. Of these, approximately 1000 result in infections.

Hepatitis A and C, and HIV can be transmitted from needle sticks.

Needles, syringes, and lancets should be safely managed to prevent injury and disease transmission. Disposal guidelines on back.



More help with medical waste disposal:

curbitboise.org/sharps
(208) 608-7136

DO:

Follow these simple steps for safe disposal of sharps:

- Purchase a sharps container. If you cannot afford a sharps container, you must use a container that is constructed of hard plastic (e.g. laundry detergent jug) or metal (e.g. coffee can).
- Add sharps point-first into container.
- Keep lid on at all times to prevent spills and decrease needle stick hazard.
- Fill container with sharps as much as possible. You must be able to close container lid. Optional: add sand or kitty litter to fill void spaces.
- When full, cap container with lid and duct tape shut.
- With permanent marker label the container, "SHARPS – DO NOT RECYCLE."
- **Place in trash cart. SHARPS CANNOT BE RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED.**

DON'T:

- ❌ Don't put loose sharps in the trash
- ❌ Don't flush used needles down the toilet
- ❌ Don't place sharps in recycling or compost carts

