

HOUSEHOLD SHARPS DISPOSAL



- The following is general guidance

What are Household Medical Sharps?

- Syringes, hypodermic needles, scalpel blades, and lancets.
- Potential health risk to waste collectors.

What should I do with my sharps?

- Off-post: follow local (state or county) requirements. On-post: contact your environmental office.
- Place waste sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a secure lid or screw-on cap. For example, empty detergent bottles work well.
- Do not overfill the container. Nothing should protrude from the top causing possible injury.
- When full, tighten the lid and secure it with tape. Using a permanent marker, label containers destined for disposal with the words "Waste Sharps."
- Place the sealed container in the trash or as directed.

What should I NOT do?

- NEVER add bleach to your sharps container. Bleach could spill or injure waste handlers.
- NEVER shear, clip, bend, re-cap, or break needles, as this increases the risk of a needle-stick injury.
- NEVER put sharps loosely in the trash.
- NEVER discard the sharps container into the recycling waste stream.



Coalition for Safe Community
Needle Disposal
Phone: 1-800-643-1643
<http://www.safeneedledisposal.org>
—Information on the availability of
safe disposal programs in local areas.

U.S. EPA, Disposal of Medical Sharps
<https://www.epa.gov/household-medication-disposal/safe-needle-disposal-households>
—Information on Drop Boxes, Mail-back
Programs, Syringe Exchange Programs (SEP),
and at-home Needle Destruction Devices.



Environmental Health Sciences Division
410-436-3651
usarmy.apg.medcom-aphc.mbx.hmwp@mail.mil

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