

CAUTION SHARPS USERS!

NEVER throw loose sharps into the trash or toilet.

NEVER leave sharps anywhere they could injure someone.

NEVER store used sharps in glass bottles, soda bottles, milk jugs, aluminum cans, coffee cans, or plastic bags.

NEVER put containers with used sharps in a recycling bin.

BEST PRACTICES:

1. **BD Safe Needle Clips** provide an inexpensive, easy disposal method that fits in your pocket!



Holds 1,500 needle tips!

2. Store your used sharps in a **mail-back container** (see inside for more details).

3. Use a sturdy, **thick-walled, plastic container** such as a laundry detergent or bleach bottle.



- Wrap heavy duty tape around the screw-type lid and label the container with the words "**SHARPS**" and "**DO NOT RECYCLE.**"

- Check that your local transfer station accepts sharps before bringing container to an attendant.

The information contained in this document was originally produced by the
**Legislative Commission to Develop
Alternatives to the Disposal of Medical
Sharps in Household Waste.**

Including:

BD (Becton, Dickinson & Company)

New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy

New Hampshire Department of
Environmental Services

New Hampshire Department of Health
and Human Services

Updated by:

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(LRPC)

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MEDICAL SHARPS



Protect others from being **STUCK by ACCIDENT!**

- Prevent injury or illness to others
- Protect waste handlers
- Help decrease pollution in the environment

PROPER DISPOSAL IN THE HOME

THE PROBLEM...

Each year, tens of thousands of New Hampshire residents give themselves millions of shots for medical conditions such as diabetes, allergies, HIV, arthritis, migraines, etc. Residents also treat pets and animals that need injections.

Most of these needles and lancets, often referred to as "sharps," are flushed down the toilet or thrown in household, public or workplace trash. These practices pose a risk of needle sticks to household members, janitorial, and solid waste workers and, in some cases, the general public. ***Simply recapping a syringe is not adequate to protect against needle sticks.*** There are safer ways to dispose of sharps.

Needle stick injuries are a serious health risk to family members and waste disposal staff. Such injuries cause great stress to victims and costs hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical testing for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, tetanus, etc.

What are sharps?

- Needles
- Syringes
- Lancets
- Infusion sets
- Auto-injectors



OPTIONS FOR SAFE DISPOSAL

SAFE NEEDLE CLIPPERS:

These devices clip the needle tip off and allow the user to throw away the rest of the syringe in the trash.



When the clipping device is full, wrap it with heavy-duty tape and then dispose with your household trash. Make sure the tape covers the sharps insert hole.

When away from home...bring your needle clip for a convenient, discrete disposal option. Few public spaces have sharps containers available.



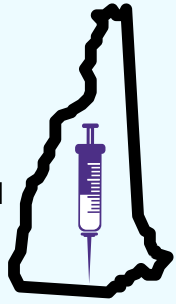
MAIL-BACK PROGRAMS: There are programs in place where the user orders a container and, when full, mails it back to the company for proper disposal. There is generally a higher fee for mail-back programs compared to safe needle clips.

For more info on mail-back programs, search the internet using key words such as "medical sharps mail-back" **OR** visit: www.safeneedledisposal.org

CURRENT NH RULES

SW-31 (NHDES)

The disposal of household-generated sharps is regulated by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) under **Env-Sw 904.01(b)(3)**.



See NHDES disposal tips for household generated sharps at: www.des.nh.gov

New Hampshire Syringe Access

Initiative: The NH Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with participating organizations, sponsors an outreach program for safe syringe exchange and proper disposal of sharps from the community. For further information call (603) 271-4496.

Diabetes Education Resources:

For individual counseling on the use and proper disposal of sharps, contact a diabetes educator in your area. The NH Diabetes Education Program, Division of Public Health Services also offers other diabetes related information at: www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdpc/diabetes/

Contact your healthcare provider, local trash facility, OR State Waste Agency to see if a sharps collection event is offered near your community.