

How to Safely Dispose of **Household Sharps**

In our region, household sharps and medical waste can be disposed of in your regular trash by following the guidelines in this brochure.

Millions of people use needles, syringes, and lancets at home to care for their health. These needles, syringes, and lancets are called sharps.

Used household sharps must be stored safely and disposed of properly to protect people from diseases.

Safe Disposal of Used Sharps:

- Protects children, pets, and workers who handle trash and recyclables from illness and injury.
- Prevents sharps from being re-used or shared, which can spread diseases.
- Protect the environment.

How to Store Your Used Sharps

Here are the best ways to store used sharps until you can safely dispose of them:

DO...

- Put used sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) in a sharps container. You can buy containers at your local drugstore. If you do not have a sharps container, use a plastic bottle that cannot be broken or punctured, such as a bleach bottle or laundry detergent bottle. Close the screw-on cap tightly. Put tape over the cap and write, "CONTAINS SHARPS" on the bottle.



- Put sharps into your container as soon as you use them. Keep the container closed and away from children and pets.
- Bring your container with you when you travel.

DON'T...

- Don't put loose used sharps or your used sharps container in with the recyclables.
- Don't put used sharps in soda cans, milk cartons, glass bottles, or containers that can be broken or punctured. Coffee cans are not safe because the plastic lids come off easily and may leak.



Household Medical Waste:

- Household medical waste such as soiled bandages, dressings, gloves, and other soiled materials should be placed in a plastic bag and securely fastened before being placed in your garbage can.

Disposal Tips for Commercial Health Care

Medical waste generated by a commercial business must be disposed of properly in Idaho. This type of waste may **NOT** go to a transfer station or construction demolition landfill in Region 2, North Central Idaho.

Commercial businesses must use a disposal service to pick up and properly dispose of their medical waste.

For further information on home-generated medical waste contact your local Health Department office or the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's Pollution Prevention Program at 208-373-0502.



Public Health - Idaho North Central District

Nez Perce County

215 10th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-3100

Latah County

333 E. Palouse River Drive
Moscow, ID 83843
(208) 882-7506

Clearwater County

105 115th Street
Orofino, ID 83544
(208) 476-7850

Lewis County

132 North Hill Street
Kamiah, ID 83536
(208) 935-2124

Idaho County

903 West Main Street
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-2842



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Disposal of Sharps and

Medical Waste Generated from Home

