

Disposal Tips for Household Generated Sharps

Household generated “sharps” include hypodermic needles and syringes, and Epi-pens. They are typically used in the home for insulin injection or for administering other medications. Household generated sharps should be disposed of appropriately to help prevent injury and illness to family members and waste handlers and reduce pollution to the environment.



Environmental Sharps Management Options

1. *Needle Removal/Destruction Device* - Use a home sharps destruction device or needle clipper available from medical supply sources on-line. These tools safely store needles in a small container for easy and affordable disposal when full.
2. *Drop Off* - To find a place near you that takes sharps, go to <http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/>. The site includes both specialized sharps management facilities and trash disposal facilities.
3. *Mail-Back* - Use a private sharps mail-back program (see back for partial list or search the internet).
4. *Trash Disposal* - This least desirable disposal method is allowed by the State of NH, but it may not be allowed by your town—give your town a call. If you use this disposal method, place your sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container such as a bleach or laundry detergent bottle, duct tape the cap in place, mark the bottle “not for recycling,” and throw away with regular trash. Unfortunately, equipment may pop the bottle open during curbside collection or at the transfer station or landfill. This can make your sharps dangerous projectiles—so let your hauler or transfer station attendant know when you have a bottle of sharps. Do NOT put with recycling.

Sample of Private Sharps Mail-Back Programs

Company	Web Site Address	Phone Number
Biomedical Waste Solutions	www.biomedicalwastesolutions.com/sharps-mail-back.php	877-974-1300
GRP & Associates	www.sharpsdisposal.com	800-207-0976
Sharps Assure	www.sharpsassure.com	855-974-2777
Sharps, Inc.	www.sharpsinc.com/residential	800-772-5657
Stericycle	www.stericycle.com (Call to set up account)	866-783-7422
Waste Management, Inc.	www.thinkgreenfromhome.com/SyringesAndLancets	800-664-1434

The Department of Environmental Services regulates the disposal of household generated sharps: refer to EnvSw 904.01(b)(3). For further information on the infectious waste rules, as administered by the Department of Environmental Services, please contact the DES Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925.



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