

Dispose of Sharps the Right Way

Place your needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects in puncture-proof, hard plastic containers you can't see through. Or use metal containers with lids reinforced with tape. Lids that screw on tightly are best. Then place the sealed container with your trash — **never in a recycling bin.**



The Dangers of Improper Disposal

Improperly discarded medical waste can

- Injure trash haulers
- Contaminate and jeopardize recycling programs
- Be reused and shared by drug abusers, possibly spreading disease.

Sharps Disposal Tips

1. Reinforce soft plastic lids (such as coffee can lids) with heavy-duty tape.



2. Never use aluminum cans to dispose of sharps.



3. Do not use glass or clear plastic containers. Glass breaks. Drug abusers can see needles through clear plastic.



4. Never clip needles with scissors (the points can fly off and be lost) unless using a device that holds onto the needle.

Sharps and Recycling Don't Mix

Syringes, needles, lancets and other sharp health care products – and the containers that hold them – should **never be recycled**. They may be contaminated, posing a danger to recycling workers. And they can cause major problems in the recycling process. Medical waste and disposal containers should **always be separated from recyclable items**. Your local waste hauler may be able to provide you with special “Do Not Recycle” stickers.

Check Your Local Regulations

Your community may have its own medical waste disposal guidelines. Call your local waste hauler or solid waste management department for details.

Also, ask your pharmacist about the availability of Pharmacy Exchange Programs for household medical waste.

For More Information:



Eastern Carolina Vocational Center, Inc.
Materials Recovery Facility

P.O. Box 1686

Greenville, NC 27835

Call John Coward at 252-341-5822

or jccoward@ecvcinc.com

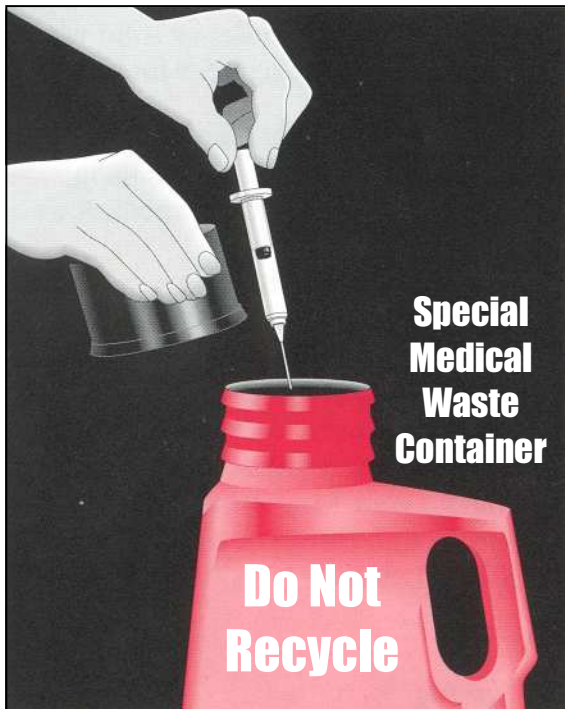
www.ECVCinc.com

**Remember: Used "Sharps"
Are Medical Waste!**

Once you use your syringe, needle, lancet or other "sharp," it becomes a potentially hazardous medical waste product. That's why it's important to dispose of sharps the right way.

Always use appropriate containers.

And remember: *sharps and recycling don't mix.*



where abilities overcome disabilities
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**think
sharp!**

