Be Safe with Needles

- Do not put loose needles and lancets in trash cans.
- Do not put needles or lancets in glass jars, coffee cans, aluminum cans or clear or thin plastic containers.
- Do not flush needles or lancets down the toilet.

Keep needles and lancets away from children and animals.

Be Safe with Disposal

If you use a red sharps container

Check with your local health department for community disposal programs. Some pharmacies and health care providers have collection stations or know of mail-back disposal programs. These are the safest ways to dispose of used needles.

If you do not use a red sharps container

- Use ONLY an empty thick plastic laundry detergent bottle. (Currently allowed in Texas)
- Label the container "Sharps: Do Not Recycle."
- Keep lid on at all times.
- Put the needle end in first.
- When ½ full, seal lid with strong tape.
- Place your sharps container in curb garbage can.

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Tenga cuidado con las agujas

- No coloque las agujas ni las lancetas sueltas en la basura.
- No coloque agujas ni lancetas en frascos de cristal, latas de café, latas de aluminio ni contenedores de plásticos transparentes o delgados.
- No deseche las agujas ni las lancetas por el inodoro.

Mantenga las agujas y las lancetas lejos de los niños y de los animales.

Tenga cuidado con la eliminación

Si usa un recipiente rojo para objetos punzantes

Averigüe a cerca de programas de eliminación comunitarios con su departamento de salud local. Algunas farmacias y proveedores de atención médica tienen estaciones de recolección o conocen programas de eliminación por medio del correo postal. Estas son las formas más seguras de eliminar las agujas usadas.

Si no usa un recipiente rojo para objetos punzantes

- SOLO use una botella vacía de detergente de lavandería de plástico grueso. (Permitido en Texas)
- Coloque una etiqueta en el recipiente "Objetos punzantes: No reciclar."
- Manténgalo con su tapa en todo momento.
- Ponga primero la punta de la aguja.
- Cuando esté lleno a la mitad, selle la tapa con una cinta adhesiva resistente.
- Coloque su recipiente con objetos punzantes en el bote de la basura en la acera.

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DO's and DON'Ts

Safe Disposal of Needles and Other Sharps Used At Home, At Work, or While Traveling

Do

- Immediately place used needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container to reduce the risk of needle-sticks, cuts, or punctures from loose sharps.
- Use an FDA-cleared sharps disposal container, if possible. If an FDA-cleared container isn't available, some organizations and community guidelines recommend using a heavy-duty plastic household container (i.e. laundry detergent container) as an alternative.
- Make sure that if a household disposal container is used, it has the basic features of a good disposal container. (See box at right for more info.)
- Be prepared — carry a portable sharps disposal container for travel.
- Follow your community guidelines for getting rid of your sharps disposal container.
- Call your local trash or public health department (listed in the county and city government section of your phone book) to find out about sharps disposal programs in your area.
- Ask your health care provider, veterinarian, local hospital or pharmacist
  - where and how you can obtain an FDA-cleared sharps disposal container,
  - if they can dispose of your used needles and other sharps, or
  - if they know of safe disposal programs near you.
- Keep all needles and other sharps and sharps disposal containers out of reach of children and pets.

All sharps disposal containers should be:

- made of a heavy-duty plastic;
- able to close with a tight-fitting, puncture-proof lid, without sharps being able to come out;
- upright and stable during use;
- leak-resistant; and
- properly labeled.

Don't

- Throw needles and other sharps into the trash.
- Flush needles and other sharps down the toilet.
- Put needles and other sharps in your recycling bin — they are not recyclable.
- Try to remove, bend, break, or recap needles used by another person. This can lead to accidental needle sticks, which may cause serious infections.
- Attempt to remove the needle without a needle clipper device because the needles could fall, fly off, or get lost and injure someone.

Best Way to Get Rid of Used Needles and Other Sharps:

Step 1: Place all needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used.

Step 2: Dispose of used sharps disposal containers according to your community guidelines.

For more information visit, www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal.