

DIABETES

Sharps Disposal

Proper sharps disposal helps protect you, your family, and others from accidental needle sticks and injury. Use these guidelines to safely handle and dispose of used needles and lancets, whether you use a red sharps container or an approved household container.

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.
- 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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