

# MANAGEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD SHARPS

## What are household sharps?

Household sharps are needles, syringes with attached needles, lancets, auto injectors (insulin pens), and other items with a sharp edge that are generated at home through self-care, rather than under the care of a home healthcare professional or at a healthcare facility.



Household sharps may be disposed in the regular trash following the **STEPS TO SAFE DISPOSAL** below.

Mail-back programs are also available, though a disposal fee or vendor requirements may apply. Check with your local healthcare provider, pharmacy, or locality for more information as there may be other options for safe disposal in your community.

## STEPS TO SAFE DISPOSAL

### RIGID/HEAVY-DUTY PLASTIC CONTAINER

Place sharps in an FDA-cleared sharps container specifically designed for HOME USE  
**OR**

Use an empty, rigid or heavy-duty, opaque, plastic container such as detergent or bleach bottles.

**DO NOT** place household sharps in glass containers, plastic soda bottles, milk jugs, or aluminum cans.

### SEAL TO PREVENT LEAKAGE

Seal with a tight-fitting lid or screw cap. Wrap heavy-duty tape around the lid of homemade sharps containers.



### LABEL FOR HOME USE

Use permanent ink to print in large, legible text: **"HOUSEHOLD SHARPS—DO NOT RECYCLE" OR "HOME GENERATED SHARPS"**

### DISPOSE WITH THE REGULAR TRASH

Place sealed, labeled sharps containers in the regular trash.

### DO NOT

- Recycle sharps or sharps containers
- Place loose sharps directly into trash bags
- Flush sharps down the toilet

