

Tips for Proper Disposal of Home Health Care Sharps

You can help prevent injury, illness and pollution by following some simple steps when you dispose of the sharp objects you use in health care at home.

NEEDLES, LANCETS, SYRINGES AND OTHER SHARP OBJECTS SHOULD BE PLACED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CONTAINERS BEFORE PUTTING THEM IN THE TRASH:

- Detergent bottles
- 2-liter pop bottles
- Plastic juice containers
- Coffee cans
- A purchased "sharps" container
- Any other rigid, leak-proof, puncture resistant container with a tight fitting lid

DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING CONTAINERS TO DISPOSE OF SHARPS.

- Glass containers (they may break)
- Plastic milk jugs (the plastic is too thin)

Please Remember To:

- Label all sides of the container with the word "sharps" in big letters
- Keep all containers out of the reach of children
- Do not use a container which you intend to recycle

ONCE PROPERLY PACKAGED AND LABELED, PLACE THE LABELED CONTAINER IN YOUR REGULAR TRASH FOR PICKUP

For more information about disposal of home user "sharps", please contact the Elyria City Health District, the Ohio EPA District Office, or Ohio EPA Division of Solid & Infectious Waste Management at the following numbers:

- Elyria City Health District 440-284-1561
- Ohio EPA Northeast District Office 330-425-9171
- Ohio EPA Division of Solid & Infectious Waste Management 614-644-2621

Dispose of unused prescription or over-the-counter medicines properly:

Don't flush unused prescription or over the counter medicines down the toilet. Studies show that trace amounts of medicines end up in our drinking water supply. Dispose of unused medicines by taking them to the twice-a-year collections held by the drug enforcement agency or you can dispose of them at home by placing them in a heavy plastic bottle, seal the lid and dispose of them with your regular trash. Others have suggested disposing of them in a similar manner but mixed with kitty litter.