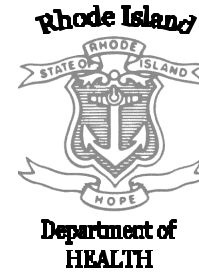


STORE ALL TEMS IN AREAS THAT ARE CHILD AND ANIMAL PROOF.

NEVER PLACE MEDICAL WASTE OR CONTAINERS OF MEDICAL WASTE IN RECYCLING BINS!

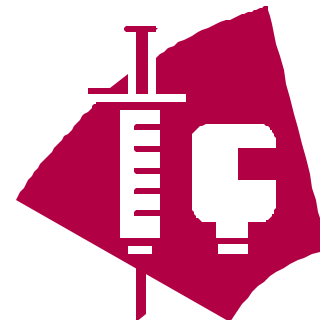


Although sharps containers are preferred, one of the following puncture resistant containers can be used:

- 1 gallon empty bleach or detergent bottle with a screw-on or tightly sealed lid.
- A 1 pound coffee can with the lid taped closed

Your may add a disinfecting solution to the container by mixing 1 teaspoon of household bleach to one pint of water. The container is now ready for disposal.

- **Do not** use a glass or clear container for needle/syringe disposal
- **Do not** use soda cans or bottles, juice bottles or milk cartons
- **Do not** use a container that is to be recycled or returned to a store.
- **Do not** place these containers where they may fall and spill open
- **Do not** remove items previously placed in the container for ANY reason



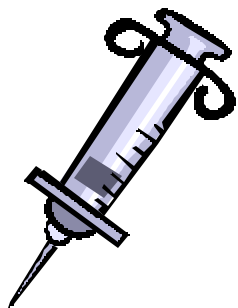
Produced by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Department of Health

HOME GUIDE FOR DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL WASTE



Why worry about disposal of medical waste in household trash?

Each year, many people are seriously injured from contact with improperly discarded needles in household trash. Waste handlers are at highest risk, but small children and pets may also be injured. Proper storage and disposal of medical waste will protect members of your household and the general public from accidental injury, as well as prevent environmental pollution.



Who should follow this guide?

- Anyone who gives injection to themselves or others at home
- Anyone undergoing IV therapy or dialysis at home
- Anyone else who generates sharp or bloodied items in the course of administering home medical care

What items require special handling?

- **Sharp items**, such as needles/syringes and lancets, which can cause puncture wounds
- **Soiled or bloody items**, such as gauze, gloves and bandages, which may leak through paper trash bags
-

How should these items be handled?

SOILED OR BLOODY ITEMS:

Put these items in securely sealed, leak proof plastic bags. The bags may be placed in your regular trash. Be sure to use tightly lidded trash barrels (esp. in warm weather) as any bloodied item



will attract animals.

Sharp Items:

Sharp items should be placed into the container immediately after use. Syringes should be disposed of as one unit,; do not attempt to remove, bend, break or recap the needle.

It is recommended that home generators take advantage of the Sharp Smart Program sponsored by the Diabetes Foundation of RI Inc. This program provides sharps containers and offers disposal of the filled containers at no cost. Information and disposal locations can be found at the web site listed below or by calling the Diabetes Foundation of RI at 401-725-7800.

<http://www.health.ri.gov/environment/risk/medwaste.php>