



How to safely dispose of needles and used medical supplies

Follow these instructions to safely dispose of supplies you have used at home that may be sharp or contaminated with blood or medications. This includes needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects.

For your safety and the safety of others, never throw out needles and used medical supplies with household trash.

1. Choose a container for safe disposal

The container must be hard enough that it can't be punctured, and have a tight, screw-on lid.

Good examples are:

- plastic bleach bottles
- plastic juice jugs
- plastic milk containers
- tins from coffee, candy or nuts

Label the container "Hazardous Material".

If you prefer, you can buy a special container for used needles from your pharmacy.



Do not use glass or clear plastic containers, or aluminum cans as they can break or puncture easily!

2. Safely dispose of your supplies right after use

When you have given yourself an injection, put the needle directly into the plastic container or tin. Do not re-cap or disconnect the needle from the syringe. Do not try to bend or break the needle. This is dangerous.

Put the lid back onto the container. Store it in a safe place, out of the reach of children and pets.

3. Safely dispose of your used containers

When the container is $\frac{3}{4}$ full or ready for disposal close the lid and seal it shut with strong tape.

Take sealed containers to a Household Hazardous Waste Depot for safe disposal. Do not throw them out in the garbage or put them in your blue recycling box. There is no charge to drop off your containers.

In the Hamilton area, there are 3 locations where you can drop off Household Hazardous Waste (all closed Sundays):

- Mountain Community Recycling Centre,
Upper Ottawa Street and Kilbride Road
- Dundas Community Recycling Centre
Olympic Drive north of King Street East
- Kenora Community Recycling Centre
460 Kenora Avenue

Some pharmacies will take used sharps containers for disposal. Call your local pharmacy to see if they provide this service.

**If you are not sure where to take your used containers,
call 905-546-CITY or the visit the website www.myhamilton.ca**