

Home health care waste primarily consists of used “sharps”, such as needles, syringes, lancets, and other sharp objects as well as soiled bandages, disposable sheets and medical gloves. You can help prevent injury, illness, and pollution by following some simple steps when disposing of these wastes in your household trash.



1. Place all sharps in a puncture-resistant, hard plastic or metal container. An empty detergent bottle with a screw-on cap or an empty coffee can will work.
2. Close the container with its original lid and secure with heavy duty tape.
3. Place the tightly sealed container in a paper bag and discard it with your household trash.
4. Place non-sharp home health care waste in a doubled, securely fastened opaque plastic trash bag before putting them into your garbage can with other waste.

### **DO NOT PLACE CONTAINER WITH YOUR RECYCLABLES**

Recommended treatment: Prior to disposal, disinfect your sharps with a solution of 1 teaspoon of bleach in ½ gallon of water

## **DOS AND DON'TS OF PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL**

### **DO**

- ✓ Place sharps in an opaque puncture-resistant container
- ✓ Seal lids on containers of sharps with heavy duty tape
- ✓ Seal trash bags with tape or wire or plastic ties
- ✓ Label plastic jug or metal can “DO NOT RECYCLE”
- ✓ Keep waste containers out of reach of children and animals

### **DON'T**

- ✗ Place loose sharps in the trash or toilet
- ✗ Label the containers as medical waste
- ✗ Clip needles with a pair of scissors
- ✗ Place sealed containers in recycling