

# Household Sharps Walk-In Disposal Guidance

## The problem with household generated sharps waste

Each year, millions of Americans use needles, syringes, lancets and epi pens which are also called sharps, to treat medical conditions at home. Disposing of those sharps after use can be a challenge.

If used sharps are placed loosely in the household trash, flushed down the toilet or disposed of haphazardly, they pose a risk to people and the environment. The risk is greatest for family members including children and pets. Waste workers are also at risk of being stuck by sharps during trash pickup, recycling, waste water treatment, or at the landfill. Exposure to used sharps increases the risk of contracting potentially life threatening diseases including HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis.



## Household generated sharps disposal

Disposal of sharps generated in the home is not regulated in Colorado allowing the in-home sharps user to place them directly in the trash. Although this method is allowable, it is **NOT** recommended and should **ONLY** be used if other safe disposal methods are not available. Appropriate containers should always be used and safe handling procedures should be followed by the in-home sharps user to avoid injury and exposure.

## Safe handling and packaging instructions

**Do not** use glass or other lightweight containers. Use industry standard sharps containers or containers with the #2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) stamp. These containers are puncture resistant and leak proof and must have lids that screw-on securely. Place sharps into the designated container immediately after use. **Do not** bend, break, or remove needles from syringes. **Do not** recap needles. **Do not** reuse needles. Examples of empty household containers with the #2 HDPE symbol stamped on the bottom with a screw on lid are shown below designating they are suitable for walk-in sharps disposal. Improper glass or lightweight containers will not be accepted.



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Please call us in advance for our affordable, convenient and eco-friendly pricing and to schedule your walk-in sharps disposal. Thank you for disposing of your sharps responsibly. Together, we can make a difference!