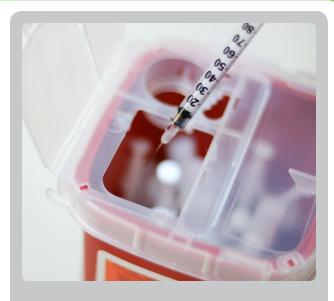
Do

- Immediately place used needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container to reduce the risk of needle-sticks, cuts, or punctures from loose sharps.
- Use an FDA-cleared sharps disposal container, if possible.
 If an FDA-cleared container isn't available, some
 organizations and community guidelines recommend
 using a heavy-duty plastic household container (i.e.
 laundry detergent container) as an alternative.
- Make sure that if a household disposal container is used, it has the basic features of a good disposal container. (See box at right for more info.)
- Be prepared carry a portable sharps disposal container for travel.
- Follow your community guidelines for getting rid of your sharps disposal container.
- Call your local trash or public health department (listed in the county and city government section of your phone book) to find out about sharps disposal programs in your area.
- Ask your health care provider, veterinarian, local hospital or pharmacist
 - where and how you can obtain an FDA-cleared sharps disposal container,
 - o if they can dispose of your used needles and other sharps, or o if they know of safe disposal programs near you.
- Keep all needles and other sharps and sharps disposal
- Keep all needles and other sharps and sharps disposa containers out of reach of children and pets.



All sharps disposal containers should be:

- made of a heavy-duty plastic;
- able to close with a tight-fitting, puncture-proof lid, without sharps being able to come out;
- upright and stable during use;
- · leak-resistant; and
- properly labeled.

Don't

- Throw needles and other sharps into the trash.
- Flush needles and other sharps down the toilet.
- Put needles and other sharps in your recycling bin they are not recyclable.
- Try to remove, bend, break, or recap needles used by another person. This can lead to accidental needle sticks, which may cause serious infections.
- Attempt to remove the needle without a needle clipper device because the needles could fall, fly off, or get lost and injure someone.

Best Way to Get Rid of Used Needles and Other Sharps:

- **Step 1:** Place all needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used.
- **Step 2:** Dispose of used sharps disposal containers according to your community guidelines.

For more information visit, www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal.

