

# Westfield Regional Health Department

## What to Do with Unused Sharps in NJ



Scan to access online

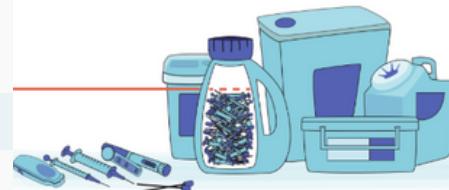


**Improper disposal of needles and syringes may cause risks to others.  
Used needles and syringes can transmit HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and  
other diseases.**

Loose needles, syringes and other medical sharps should be collected in heavy-duty plastic containers. Some hospitals accept used needles and syringes when put in containers using the steps listed.

**Dos**

**+ Don'ts**



- **Don't** flush them down the toilet, place in recycling bins or in household garbage.
- **Don't** use coffee cans as plastic lids can come off easily.
- **Don't** try to remove, bend, break or recap needles.
- **Do** place used syringes and needles into an FDA-approved sharps container, such as a laundry detergent or bleach bottle. The bottle should be sturdy, puncture-resistant and should not leak.
- **Do** screw the lid on tightly, seal it with duct tape, label the container as "Do Not Recycle-Contains Sharps" and place it in the garbage.



**For More**

**Information**

- [New Jersey Public Health and Food Protection Program](#): 609-826-4935
- [The US Food & Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)
- [Safeneedledisposal.org](#)