

Westfield Regional Health Department

What to Do with Unused Sharps

in NJ



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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