

Alternative Disposal Options

- Some county-operated household hazardous waste facilities accept sharps from their residents. Check with your local HHW to determine if they will accept sharps.
- Some county health departments accept sharps from residents, schools, small businesses, etc. Check locally to determine the availability of such services.
- Local pharmacies, hospitals, and other medical facilities do not generally allow public drop-off of sharps for disposal.

General Guidelines

- Do not throw loose needles in the trash
- Do not flush any medical sharps down the toilet
- Do not mix any medical sharps with recyclable material

These guidelines are applicable to sharps generated in some **agricultural** settings that may not be subject to state medical waste regulations.

For more information, contact
the Bureau of Waste Management
785-296-1600 or kdhe.bwmweb@ks.gov



Bureau of Waste Management
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320
Topeka, KS 66612-1366
kdheks.gov/waste kdhe.bwmweb@ks.gov
785-296-1600



SHARPS - a medical term for devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin.

DON'T GET STUCK WITH SHARPS

Guidelines for the Safe Disposal of Medical Sharps



1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320
Topeka, KS 66612-1366
kdheks.gov/waste kdhe.bwmweb@ks.gov
785-296-1600

Medical sharps should never be mixed with recyclable materials!!

(including source-separated material and single stream material)

The improper disposal of medical sharps may present serious safety and public health risks, especially to solid waste and recycling workers. Any person who is accidentally stuck should undergo medical testing due to concerns about exposure to harmful or deadly diseases such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. Under Kansas law, if you use medical sharps such as needles, syringes, and lancets at home or in certain other settings, you may dispose of such items with other trash but only in accordance with the precautions provided in this publication.



The disposal of loose sharps in the trash or with recyclables puts family members, trash haulers, recyclers, and disposal facility employees in danger of infection and other injuries. Do your part to keep them safe.

Alternative Disposal Options

- Always use a heavy duty tape (such as duct tape) to secure lids to the containers
- Do not overstuff containers with sharps. Fill to approximately 2/3 full
- Sharps disposal devices such as needle cutting and incineration devices are available at your local pharmacy or on the internet.

A needle cutter automatically stores the cut needles and is useful when a disposal container is not available.



A needle incinerator for non-medical facility use destroys needles by high heat and reduces them to BB-size balls.



.....
: These disposal guidelines apply to medical sharps generated at the following types of community locations (not sharps generated by regulated health care providers):
: Households - Schools - Offices
: Churches - Small Businesses
:

Containers that May be Used for Medical Sharps

Examples of containers that MAY be used:

- Metal container with screw on lid
- Special purchased sharps container
- Bleach
- Liquid soap
- Laundry soap



Containers that Should NOT be Used for Medical Sharps

Examples of containers that should NOT be used:

- Glass jar
- Coffee can with snap on lid
- 2-liter beverage container
- Plastic milk jug
- Plastic bag
- Aluminum can



DON'T GET STUCK WITH SHARPS !