

**Proper disposal
is important to
protect yourself
and others.**

By following this guideline you are helping the City achieve its goal in providing a safe and healthy environment for all.



Reminder: To file a complaint regarding a health issue, please call the Baltimore City Complaint System, telephone number 311. Complaints referred to the Health Department are investigated within a 7 to 20 day period.



**Baltimore City Health
Department**

210 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.,
Commissioner

**BALTIMORE CITY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**



**PROTECT YOUR
FAMILY AND
SANITATION
WORKERS**

*Dispose of All
Needles and
Sharps Properly!*



Needle-Stick Injuries Can Be Avoided!

The term “sharps” refers to needles, syringes, lancets and similar devices or materials with the potential to cut or puncture an individual.

Each year, 8 million people across the country use more than 3 billion needles sharps to manage medical conditions at home. And every year, more than 1 million accidental needle-sticks are reported - an additional estimated 66 percent per year are unreported.

Improper disposal of sharps exposes a person to the risk of a painful stick -- and increases the risk of contracting such diseases as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B or C.

Individuals at the greatest risk of being stuck by used sharps include sanitation and sewage treatment workers, janitors and housekeepers, and children.

You can do your part to help prevent accidental needle-sticks by following this guideline for sharps safety and disposal.

There are 2 options for Baltimore City residents to dispose of their sharps.

OPTION 1: PUT SHARPS IN AN ACCEPTABLE CONTAINER AND DISCARD IN THE TRASH

1. Acceptable containers are rigid, puncture resistant containers with secure lids or caps.

The best containers are those that:

- ✓ Are made of strong plastic, so needles cannot poke through
- ✓ Have a small opening on top with a cap or a lid that screw on tightly to prevent spills.

Examples of good containers: plastic bleach jug and plastic liquid detergent bottle



Container Don'ts:

- ✗ Don't use glass containers or lightweight plastic containers
- ✗ If you use a container to dispose of sharps, be sure it does not end up in the recycling bin by mistake. These items are not recyclable and could affect the safe and effective recycling of other items in the bin.

Examples of bad containers: aluminum beer, soda cans or metal cans (no lids) and coffee cans (lids are too easily punctured)



2. Visibly label the sharps container “Do Not Recycle: Sharps.”
3. Dispose of the container with your regular trash on your allotted trash pick-up days.

OR

OPTION 2: CALL THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR INFORMATION ON DROP-OFFS

Call the Baltimore City Health Department, Office of Facility Management, at 410-396-4008 to find out about the schedule of drop-offs at one of the below locations.

- Druid Family Health Center, 1515 W. North Avenue
- Eastern Family Center, 620 N. Caroline Street

Note: If you find a sharp, do not pick it up with your bare hands.

Use a glove and tongs, a shovel or broom and a dustpan to pick it up.