

Every year hundreds of people get accidentally stabbed with used needles.

Used needles can spread infections and diseases such as AIDS. While not everyone may get such diseases the possibility is real.

You can do your part by following these steps:

Step 1:

After you've used the syringe, put it directly into a strong

Plastic or Metal Container with a tight cap or lid.

Do Not
recap needles

Do Not
clip needles
with scissors



Container Do's

- ✓ Use approved Sharp's container (check with local pharmacy)

If not available use:

- ✓ A heavy plastic bleach jug
- ✓ A heavy plastic milk jug
- ✓ One where needles and syringes cannot be seen inside.
- ✓ A container with a narrow opening to decrease the chance of syringes or needles falling out is preferred.

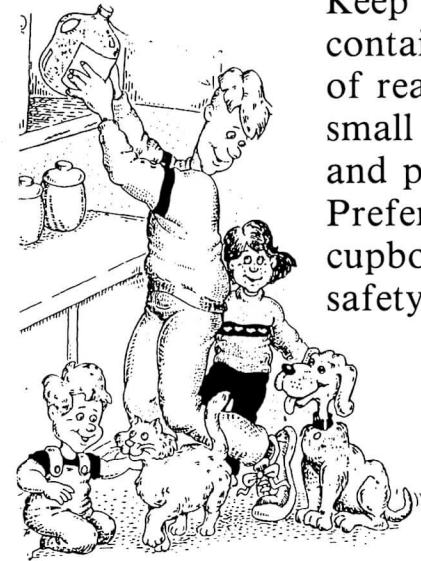


A metal coffee can is OK to use, but when it gets three-quarters full, close the lid tightly and seal it with strong tape.

Note:
Container should be labelled with the appropriate **warning stickers** or write **used needles** on the container with a permanent marker.

Storage

Keep your container out of reach of small children and pets! Preferably in a cupboard with a safety lock.



Container Don'ts

- ✗ Do not use glass containers they can break.
- ✗ Do not recycle containers that are filled with needles.
- ✗ Do not use plastic pop bottles; they can be crushed in the garbage.

Disposal of the Container

Step 2:

1. When the container is three-quarters full, seal it tightly and secure lid with strong water proof tape.
2. For the safest possible method of disposing of containers of used sharps, call your local health unit at:

For additional information and services contact Community Health, listed in the white pages of your phone book.

Ask the following questions

- What are the local regulations regarding the final disposal of sharps?
 - Is there a place in your community that will dispose of your container (eg. hospital, drug store)?
 - Where is/are the local disposal facility(s)
3. If there are no facilities of any kind in your area that will dispose of your containers, you will need to dispose of your container in regular household garbage.



Illustrations provided by:
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Used Needles



spread disease

**HANDLE
WITH
CARE**