

PROPER DISPOSAL NEEDLES & SHARPS

A Guide to doing it right in Lawrence and Mercer Counties.

What are Sharps?

“Sharps” is a broad term used to describe a medical device with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin. Some examples are:

- Needles/ Syringes
- Broken Glass
- Exposed ends of dental wire
- Lancets
- Auto Injectors

The FDA recommends that used needles and other sharps be immediately placed in FDA-cleared sharps disposal containers. FDA-cleared sharps disposal containers are generally available through pharmacies, medical supply companies, health care providers, and online.

Can I Recycle my Sharps? No.

Sharps are dangerous to people and pets.

Why are Sharps Dangerous?

Used needles and other sharps are dangerous to people and pets if not disposed of safely. Needles and sharps can injure people and spread infections such as Hepatitis B & C, as well as HIV.

Sharps and needle stick injuries are a serious and very real danger to sanitation and recycling center workers. Workers injured by sharps must go through a battery of tests over several months after being injured by a sharp.

<https://lawrencecountypa.gov/departments/recycling-and-solid-waste>

www.mercercountypa.gov/recycling

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(724) 658-6925



How Do I Properly Package My Sharps?

1. Use a ridged, heavy-duty plastic container with a screw top such as a detergent bottle or designated sharps container.
2. Clearly label the container "DO NOT RECYCLE."
3. Carefully place used sharps inside, needle side down, until the container is 3/4 full.
4. Screw on the cap and use heavy tape on the top so it cannot be removed.
5. Use a portable container for when you travel.

How Do I Get Rid of Needles and Sharps?

1. Ask your doctor if they will accept properly "containerized" sharps for safe disposal.
2. Use a drop off location such as a doctors office, hospital, or pharmacy.
3. Use a mail-back program. Fees apply to these programs, but they provide you with a prepaid shipping label and FDA approved container.
4. If properly packaged, you may place the containerized sharps in your trash.

Never throw needles and sharps in your recycling bin or loosely into the trash.

They are a serious danger to sanitation and recycling workers!

Drop-Off Locations

- ✓ **Heritage Valley Hospital**
1000 Dutch Ridge Rd
Beaver, PA 15009
- ✓ **Mahoning County Laboratory Services**
116 Westchester Dr
Youngstown, OH 44515
- ✓ **The Medicine Shoppe**
1740 East State Street
Hermitage, PA 16148

*Always call to be sure of any specific requirements prior to drop off. Additional details may be found at www.safeneedledisposal.org

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Online Mail Back Programs

An on-line search for mail back programs will provide a list of options. Some programs are fee-based.

Visit: www.fda.gov or www.safeneedledisposal.org for more information.

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