



Needle Disposal

Millions of people in the United States use needles every day to inject medication or for medical testing. Making sure to safely dispose of needles should be a priority for you. This brochure will provide you with resources and tips for needle disposal.

How should I dispose of my used needles?

You can prevent injury, illness, and pollution by following some simple steps for disposing of your used needles.

- Place your used needles in a hard plastic or metal container with a tightly secured lid (such as a plastic milk jug.) Do not use a container you plan to recycle.
- Before discarding the container, reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape.
- Mark the container as "Not Recyclable."
- Keep all needles and the container out of reach of children.

Other ways to dispose of your used needles:

- **Mail-back programs**—You may need to buy a special container for this service. You may also be charged a fee for disposal. For a fee, IVPCare Specialty Pharmacy offers a U.S. Postal Service-approved, pre-paid postage program. For more information, visit their website at www.ivpcare.com/pharmacy/faqs.asp.
- **At-home needle destruction devices**—There are devices for destroying used needles at home. These devices are typically expensive, but can be found at many pharmacies. Individual states and municipalities may have their own laws and regulations on needle disposal.

You can contact your local waste management department or your local health department for more information about needle disposal. You can also contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at 1.800.643.1634 or visit their website at: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical.

Resources

- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
122 S. Front St.
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614.644.3020
www.epa.state.oh.us
- Ohio Department of Health
246 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43216
Phone: 614.466.3543
www.odh.state.oh.us

Local waste departments

- Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District
323 Lakeside Ave. W.
Suite 400
Cleveland, OH 44113-1009
Phone: 216.443.3749
- Summit/Akron Solid Waste
Management Authority
12 E. Exchange St.
Third Floor
Akron, OH 44308
Phone: 330.374.0383
- Medina County Solid Waste District,
Central Processing Facility
8700 Lake Road
Seville, OH
Phone: 330.769.1273
or 1.800.968.7273
- Lake County Solid Waste District
99 E. Erie St.
Painesville, OH 44077
Phone: 440.350.2582