

HOUSEHOLD SHARPS GUIDANCE

The problem with household generated sharps waste:

Each year, millions of Americans use needles, syringes, and lancets (also called sharps), to treat medical conditions at home. Disposing of those sharps after use can be a challenge.

If used sharps are placed loosely in household trash, flushed down the toilet or disposed of haphazardly, they pose a risk to the community. The risk may be greatest for family members including children and pets. Waste workers are also at risk of being stuck by sharps during trash pickup, during recycling, during waste water treatment or at the landfill. Exposure to used sharps increases the risk of contracting potentially life threatening diseases including HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis.



Household generated sharps disposal and safety tips:

Disposal of sharps generated in the home is not regulated in Colorado allowing the in-home sharps user to place them directly into the trash. Although this method is allowable, it is not recommended and should only be used as a last option if safe disposal methods are not available. Safe handling procedures should always be followed by the in-home sharps user.

SAFE HANDLING TIPS FOR SHARPS

- Use industry standard sharps containers or strong, puncture resistant, leak proof containers with screw-on lids*
- No milk containers (jugs)
- Use a black or dark-colored marker write: "Sharps – Do Not Recycle" on the container
- Place the intact sharps into the container immediately after use
- Drop off at the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility

*Examples of acceptable empty household generated containers that may be used for sharps waste include: laundry detergent jugs, bleach bottles, or other High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) plastic containers with screw-on lids. These containers should be stamped on the bottom with the #2 symbol (shown below) which designate that they are acceptable for Sharps use.



Mark and label bottle SHARPS DO NOT RECYCLE.

Open to residents of Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield and Town of Erie:
Wednesday - Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



**Hazardous Materials
Management Facility**
1901c 63rd Street
720-564-2251

www.BoulderCountyRecycles.org