

# Medical Sharps Disposal



## Protect Yourself, Protect Others: Safe Options for Home Needle Disposal

Your neighbors, children, janitors, housekeepers, waste collectors and pets are at risk if sharps (syringes, lancets, etc.) are disposed of improperly.

**Keep them out of the trash!**

**DO Place your needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects in labeled, puncture-proof, hard plastic containers you can't see through. Containers with lids that screw on tightly are best.**

**AND Use one of the recommended disposal methods listed below.**



### **Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Wastes**

Dubuque Metro Landfill has a disposal site that accepts Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) like used oil, batteries, paint and medical sharps (needles, lancets, etc.). Appointments are necessary. Call (563)589-1720 for instructions and to schedule a drop off time.

**Drop-Off Collection Sites**—Delaware County Waste Commission holds Toxic Clean Up days periodically. Call (563) 922-9702 for more information.

### **Mail-Back Service**

This service provides a sharps container and mail-back packaging. The container can be filled with sharps and mailed back. The cost for this service depends on the size of the container used. For a list of mail-back service companies, contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at (800) 643-1643 or visit [www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org)

### **DON'T**

**Place uncontained sharps (needles, lancets, etc.) in the trash OR Flush sharps down the toilet OR Put sharps in recycling containers.**

### **How can I find more information?**

- Ask your health care provider or local pharmacist if they can dispose of your medical sharps, or if they know of safe disposal programs near you.
- Call the Dubuque Metro Area Regional Collection Center at (563) 589-1720, for disposal options and to schedule an appointment.

This information has been provided by the Bi-County Medical Waste Disposal Task Force. Contact the Solid Waste Education Office at (563) 588-7933, for more information.