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 device with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin. Sharps may be used at home, at work, and while traveling to manage medical conditions. Some examples are :

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

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. By disposing of needles and sharps properly you help prevent injury, illness, and pollution.
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 to ensure they are not infected with anything.

How Do I Properly Package My Sharps?
1. Use a ridged, heavy-duty plastic container with a screw top (e.g., detergent bottle).
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 ne removed.

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. Mail-back programs often provide you with FDA approved sharps container and packaging for shipping. You will have to pay a small fee for this method of disposal.
4. After properly packaging you may place them in your trash.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Heritage Valley Hospital
1000 Dutch Ridge Rd
Beaver, PA 15009

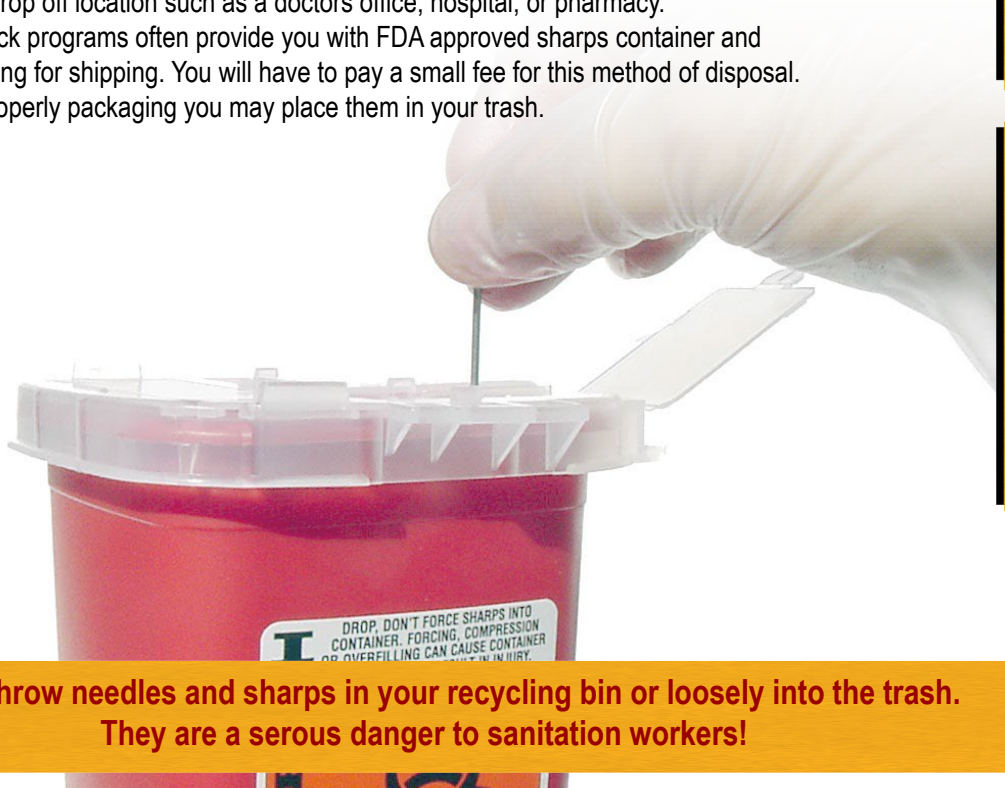
Mahoning County
Laboratory Services
116 Westchester Dr
Youngstown, OH 44515

***Always call to be sure of any specific requirements prior to drop off**
Updated Oct. 2019

Online Mail Back Programs

sharpsdisposal.com
sharpsassure.com
bwaste.com

Visit
www.Safeneedledisposal.org
for more information



Do not throw needles and sharps in your recycling bin or loosely into the trash. They are a serous danger to sanitation workers!

Lawrence-Mercer
Recycling/Solid Waste Department

www.co.lawrence.pa.us/recycling

www.mercercountypa.gov/recycling

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