

3 Steps: Prepare your medical sharps for safe disposal

To help reduce the risk of injury, follow these steps to correctly package your used medical sharps for safe disposal.

1. Place the sharps in rigid, puncture-resistant containers that have secure lids or caps.

NOTE: DO NOT add bleach to the container. Bleach may not completely disinfect needles, and it could spill and injure you or the people who handle the waste.

Acceptable containers include:

- Commercially available sharps containers
- Thick-walled plastic detergent or bleach bottles with screw caps

Unacceptable containers include:

- Coffee cans (the lids are too easily punctured)
- Plastic milk jugs
- Plastic bags
- Aluminum cans
- Soda bottles



2. Visibly label the sharps container with one of the following:

- Biohazard
- Infectious waste
- Sharps
- Bio-hazard emblem

If you have put sharps in a recyclable container, label it “do not recycle.” When the container is full, sealed and labeled, store it out of reach of children. Dispose of it properly at a sharps collection station.



All Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin emergency departments accept sharps 24/7.

Froedtert Health complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. **Attention:** If you speak another language, assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call: 414-805-3000 (TTY: 1-800-947-3529) **Español (Spanish):** ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al: 414-805-3000 (TTY: 1-800-947-3529) **Hmoob (Hmong):** LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau: 414-805-3000 (TTY: 1-800-947-3529)