

Sharps Disposal

Do's and Don'ts

Do's...

- ✓ Do...Place used needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container or in another hard sided container with a lid (and label "Household sharps do not recycle or throw in trash")
- ✓ Do...Keep all needles and other sharps and sharps disposal containers out of reach of children and pets.
- ✓ Do...Teach children not to pick up needles and to tell an adult if they find one.
- ✓ Do...Pick up improperly discarded sharps with latex gloves, tweezers or tongs with the tip pointing away from you.
- ✓ Do...Dispose of sharps in a community drop box, harm reduction agency, pharmacy (when available) or Interior Health public health centre, mental health and substance use, or primary care site.
- ✓ Do...Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after disposal.

- ✓ Do...Contact a sharps retrieval and disposal service in your community if you are uncomfortable picking up sharps yourself.
- ✓ Do...Visit Interior Health's Safe Needle Disposal webpage for more information.

Don'ts...

- ✗ Do not put sharps in the garbage.
- ✗ Do not put sharps in the recycling bin.
- ✗ Do not put sharps in the toilet or down the drain.
- ✗ Do not toss sharps on the ground.
- ✗ Do not try to remove or break off the tip of a needle or re-cap it if used by another person.