



Proper Sharps Management

The La Crosse County Household Hazardous Materials Facility accepts medical sharps under the following conditions: Needles, syringes, auto-injectors (EpiPens) and lancets must be transported to the HHM facility in sealed, puncture-resistant containers. Additional sharps collection sites can be found on the [Alliance to HEAL website](#).

To reduce the risk of injury, follow these four steps to get medical sharps ready for safe disposal.

1. Clip the needle points with needle clippers, or recap or resheathe discarded sharps to help prevent needle sticks. Recapping needles is prohibited in healthcare facilities because medical workers might stick themselves with contaminated needles, but individuals who administer their own medications are not at risk from their own needles.
2. Place the sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant containers with secure lids or caps. Acceptable containers include commercially available sharps containers or thick-walled plastic detergent or bleach bottles with screw caps. Unacceptable containers include coffee cans (the lids are easily punctured), plastic milk jugs, plastic bags, aluminum cans and soda bottles. NOTE: DO NOT add bleach to the container. Bleach may not completely disinfect needles, and it could spill and injure you or waste handlers.
3. Visibly label the sharps container with the word "SHARPS" or with the bio-hazard emblem. If you put sharps in a container that would otherwise be recyclable, label it "Do not recycle."
4. When the container is full, sealed and labeled, store it out of reach of children and dispose of it properly at a sharps collection site.

