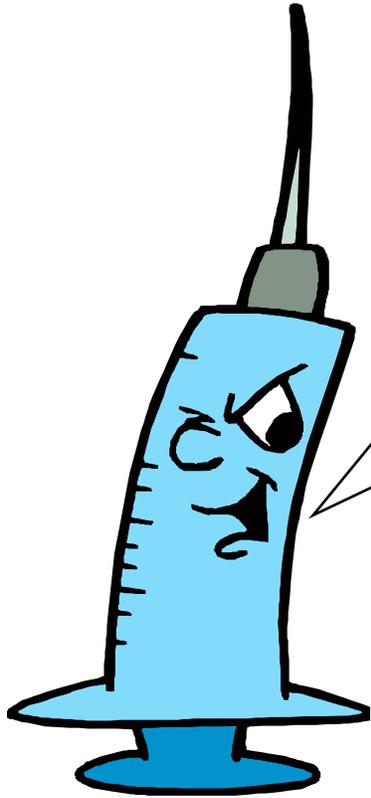


GUIDELINES FOR PROPER DISPOSAL OF HYPODERMIC SYRINGES AND OTHER



"Sharps"

What are "sharps"?

"Sharps" include hypodermic needles, syringes, and lancets (finger stick devices) and other sharp medical instruments.

Why do needles/sharps need to be discarded in a special way?

State Law and Municipal Ordinance make it illegal to throw your used needles, syringes, and lancets out with your household solid waste or recyclable materials. Unsafe disposal can result in serious diseases through accidental needle sticks to workers or others who may be handling your solid waste or recyclable materials.

What is the legal method to dispose of used "sharps"?

"Sharps" **should not** be placed with your solid waste or recyclable materials. Special red colored "bio-hazard" containers should be used to hold used "sharps". These containers are available at most pharmacies where medical supplies are sold. After the container is filled, take it back to the pharmacy where they will dispose of the used "sharps" in a safe and legal manner. (HINT) Don't forget to pick up a replacement bio-hazard container while you're at the pharmacy.

Will all pharmacies take back used "sharps"?

Most independently owned pharmacies in the Racine area offer a "sharps" disposal program. Be sure to ask your pharmacist about the program. Some of the chain pharmacies **do not** offer

a disposal program so if your pharmacy is one of these, tell them that you want a program started at their location.

How serious is the used “sharps” issue?

Very serious!!

Solid waste collectors and other people who handle your recyclables are being exposed to potential hazards from needle sticks everyday. Follow up medical care for these incidents is long term and expensive.

Can I be penalized if I put my used sharps in the regular solid waste or recycling materials?

Yes!

Wisconsin Statutes and City of Racine Ordinances each carry substantial penalties for violations if medical waste is disposed of in regular solid waste or recycling materials.

Which Racine area pharmacies currently offer a “sharps” disposal program?

Lakeview Pharmacy

516 Monument Sq. 632-0520

Shopko Pharmacy

637-8444

Osco Drug

1122 West Blvd. 637-5603

Community Pharmacy

2405 Northwestern Avenue 635-6170

St. Luke’s Community Pharmacy

1320 Wisconsin Ave. 636-2150

Aurora Pharmacy

8348 Washington Ave. 884-4030

2210 Rapids Dr. (Pick 'N Save) 633-0543

Shorecrest Pharmacy

3900 Erie St. 639-1611

Remember



DO NOT dispose of “Sharps” in regular solid waste or recycling containers.



Obtain a “Bio Hazard” container from participating pharmacies for “Sharps” disposal.