

How do I safely throw out my sharp waste?

A guide for consumers

What is Sharp waste

Sharps are medical tools that can pierce the skin and can cause harm such as a syringe with a needle, a finger prick needle or lancet. Some people need to use needles to give their medicine and monitor their health.

Why is it important to dispose of Sharps safely?

To keep others safe, you must never put sharps in the bin or recycling. Your rubbish and recycling may be sorted by hand. Safe disposal of sharps makes sure there is no risk of harm to others. It is important to check with your local council on the sharps disposal rules as these may differ from place to place. Your council can issue big fines if safe sharp disposal is not followed. If you use a sealed hard plastic container for your sharps waste, your local Council may let you put this in the rubbish bin.

How do I safely dispose of sharps?

Always make sure your sharps are secured and disposed of in a strong plastic container. A strong container is one that you cannot dent. Put your sharp waste container on a table or bench to place your sharp in safely, never on your lap.

You can use



A dedicated Australian Standard
Sharps container





A puncture-resistant plastic container
with a screw top



DO NOT dispose of sharps in



Soft plastic bottles



Aluminium cans



Cardboard
boxes



Glass containers
as they can break



Where do I get a safe sharps container?

Most councils provide safe sharps containers for free. Contact your council to find out what they do. You can get safe sharps containers from your local hospital or pharmacy. Ask if there is a cost to you. You can also buy a sharps container from www.diabetesshop.com or phone 1300 776 388.

What do I do when my sharps container is almost full?

It is important to only fill your sharps waste container to $\frac{3}{4}$ full or the level shown. Make sure the lid is on tight before taking to disposal centre. The safest way to dispose of your sharps waste container is at a public hospitals, some pharmacies, or your local council.

Talk to your visiting team member if you need more support.

Diabetes Australia	Phone: 02 6232 3800 https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au
Diabetes NSW & ACT	Phone: 1300 342 238 or 02 9552 9942 https://diabetesnsw.com.au
Diabetes QLD	Phone: 1800 177 055 https://www.diabetesqld.org.au
Diabetes Vic	Phone: 1300 437 386 https://www.diabetesvic.org.au
National Diabetes Services Scheme	NDSS Helpline 1800 637 700 https://www.ndss.com.au