



Medical Waste Disposal:

BEST PRACTICES FOR OWNERS OF MULTIFAMILY PROPERTIES



What is Medical Waste?

- Medical waste refers to healthcare waste that may be contaminated with blood, bodily fluid, or other potential infectious materials.
- Waste associated with treatment of infectious diseases at home or in a healthcare setting is also medical waste.
- All medical waste must be safely separated, managed, labeled, and stored in a leak proof bag or container before disposal. There are generally agreed-upon labels and colors to indicate biohazard items.
- Two common categories of medical waste in residential settings are sharps/needles and medication.



Sharps/Needles

- In the United States, three billion needles, syringes and lancets (sharps) are used in homes each year. Sanitation workers, janitors, housekeepers, and children face the greatest risk of being unintentionally stuck by used needles.
- The EPA describes safe disposal options. Contact your local trash removal service or health department to determine which option meets your needs.
 - o Drop-off collection sites
 - o Mail-back programs
 - o Household hazardous waste collection sites
 - o Residential special waste pickup services
 - o Syringe exchange programs
 - o Home needle destruction devices
- If listed disposal options are not possible, some organizations recommend storing sharps in a leak resistant, puncture resistant container, such as a plastic laundry detergent container. When the container is 75 percent full, the container should be clearly labelled, firmly shut, and then disposed of according to local guidelines and regulations.



Medication

- The best way to dispose of expired, unused, or unwanted medication (both prescription and over-the-counter) is by bringing it to a [Drug Take Back Location](#). These authorized drug collection locations safely and securely gather and dispose of medication.
- If you are unable to access a Drug Take Back Location and your medication is on the FDA flush list, your best course of action is to promptly flush the medication down the toilet. If your expired, unused, or unwanted medication is not on the flush list, you should reference your medication's instructions for additional guidance. If no additional information is provided, you should mix it with an unappealing substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds. This mixture should then be sealed in a plastic bag and disposed of in the garbage.

MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL: BEST PRACTICES

State Resources:

Alabama: www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Alaska: <https://dec.alaska.gov/>

Arizona: <https://azdeq.gov/BioMedWaste>

Arkansas: www.healthy.arkansas.gov

California: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs

Colorado: www.colorado.gov/pacific/

Connecticut: www.ct.gov/deep/cwp

Delaware: www.dnrec.delaware.gov

Florida: www.floridahealth.gov/

Georgia: gecap.org/pdf/biom

Hawaii: <http://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/>

Idaho: www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt

Illinois: www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/wa

Indiana: www.in.gov/

Iowa: www.iowadnr.gov/enviro

Kansas: <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/>

Kentucky: eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Prot

Louisiana: deq.louisiana.gov/faq/category/

Maine: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/waste>

Maryland: phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEH

Massachusetts: www.mass.gov/lists

Michigan: www.michigan.gov/egle

Minnesota: www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/

Mississippi: www.mdeq.ms.gov/land/waste

Missouri: dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub188.htm

Montana: deq.mt.gov/Land/recycl

Nebraska: deq.ne.gov/publica.nsf

Nevada: ndep.nv.gov/uploads/land-w

New Hampshire: www.des.nh.gov/orga

New Jersey: www.state.nj.us/dep/

New Mexico: www.env.nm.gov/solid-w

New York: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical>

North Carolina: deq.nc.gov/abo

North Dakota: deq.nd.gov/WM/In

Ohio: www.epa.state.oh.us/po

Oklahoma: www.deq.ok.gov/wp-co

Oregon: www.oregon.gov/oha

Pennsylvania: www.dep.pa.gov/Busi

Rhode Island: health.ri.gov/healthrisks

South Carolina: <https://scdhec.gov/>

South Dakota: denr.sd.gov/des/wm/sw

Tennessee: www.tn.gov/enviro

Texas: www.tceq.texas.gov/per

Utah: digitallibrary.utah.gov/awweb

Vermont: dec.vermont.gov/waste-m

Virginia: www.deq.virginia.gov/Progr

Washington: ecology.wa.gov/Reg

Washington D.C.: <https://dpw.dc.gov/ser>

West Virginia: www.wvdhr.org/wvimw

Wisconsin: dnr.wi.gov/topic/HealthWaste

Wyoming: deq.wyoming.gov/media

Additional Resources:

Safe Needle Disposal: <https://safeneedledisposal.org/>

North American Syringe Exchange Network: <https://www.nasen.org/>

EPA: Medical Waste: <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/medical-waste>

EPA: Safe Needle Disposal: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/>

FDA: Drug Take Back Locations: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines/>

FDA: Flush List: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/flush-list>

FDA: Non-Flush List: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/non-flush-list>

FDA: Resources on Safe Needle Disposal: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/>

Covid-19 Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/>

