

Sharps Container Safety

Important: Save This Information

For your safety and the safety of others, all needles, syringes, and other sharp objects must be disposed of properly in a sharps container.

Disposing of Your Sharps Container

- **Do not recycle a sharps container.**
- Visit www.safeneedledisposal.org for information about Sharps Disposal Centers. Use your 5-digit ZIP code to search for a location near you.
- A phone number to call for disposal information is listed on sharps containers that you buy.
- Many hazardous waste collection sites do not take sharps.
- In Illinois, you can call the GRP Medical Waste Disposal at (800) 207-0976.
- Use a Mail-back program. Call Stericycle at (866) 783-6275.



Important Safety Tips

- Keep sharps and sharps containers **away from children and pets**
- **Do not fill** a sharps container more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way full. This helps lessen the risk of getting stuck with a needle.
- **Do not** throw sharps in the trash, recycle bin, or toilet.
- **Never** reach your hand into a sharps container.
- **Do not** force sharps into the sharps container.
- **Do not** try to break or recap a used sharp.



To Get a Sharps Container

- Ask the UChicago Medicine pharmacy team.
- Visit your local pharmacy to buy a sharps container.
- Some drug companies give away free sharps containers.



How to Make a Sharps Container

Make a sharps container from an old laundry detergent bottle.

- Use heavy duty plastic that is leak and puncture resistant.
- The lid has to be tight fitting and puncture resistant.
- Put a large label on the container that says, "Sharps Container".

