

## DO

- ◇ Immediately place used needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container to reduce the risk of needle-sticks, cuts, or punctures from loose sharps.
- ◇ Use an FDA-cleared sharps disposal container.
- ◇ Be prepared- carry a portable sharps disposal container for travel.
- ◇ Keep all needles and other sharps and sharps disposal containers out of reach of children and pets.

- ◇ Do not throw needles and other sharps into the trash.

## DON'T

- ◇ Do not flush needles and other sharps down the toilet.
- ◇ Do not put needles and other sharps in your recycling bin- they are not recyclable.
- ◇ Do not try to remove, bend, break, or recap needles used by another person. This can lead to accidental needle sticks, which may cause serious infections.
- ◇ Do not attempt to remove the needle without a needle clipper device because the needles could fall, fly off, or get lost and injure someone.

OSHA requirements for sharps disposal containers state the container must be

- Closable
- Upright and stable during use
- Puncture resistant
- Leak-proof at sides and bottom
- Properly labeled with the biohazard symbol and legend or color coded

Best way to get rid of used needles and other sharps:

- Step 1: Place all needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used.
- Step 2: Dispose of used sharps disposal containers according to your community guidelines.

Sources: US Environmental Protection Agency Publication EPA530-K-04-001, Publication EPA530-F-04-004; American Diabetes Association; Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); Des Moines County Area Solid Waste Commission; Code of Ordinances of the City of Burlington, Iowa, Chapter 105  
[www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org)  
[www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal](http://www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal)



## Safe Needle Disposal

### Protect Yourself, Protect Others



### Solid Waste Department

Phone: 319-753-8114

Internet: [www.burlingtoniowa.org](http://www.burlingtoniowa.org)

Email: [wasteRus@burlingtoniowa.org](mailto:wasteRus@burlingtoniowa.org)

## PROTECT YOURSELF, PROTECT OTHERS

Each year, approximately 9 million sharps users — or people who use needles, syringes, lancets, auto injectors, injection pens, infusion sets, or connection needles/ sets to receive medication - will administer at least 3 billion injections outside of healthcare facilities. People use sharps to manage a wide variety of conditions, including: allergies, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/ AIDS, infertility, migraines, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, blood clotting disorders, psoriasis and more. Disposing of used sharps safely is different from state to state and in some cases, locality to locality. This is why it is so important for patients to understand local options.



Used needles and lancets are dangerous because they can:

- Injure people
- Spread germs
- Spread diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tetanus, and syphilis

## *Safe Disposal Options:*

### Des Moines County Health Department

522 North Third, Burlington  
(753-8290)

Gives out sharps containers to all who request them and accepts them at no charge, no questions asked - donations are welcome & appreciated.

### Heritage Medical Equipment & Supplies

624 S. Roosevelt Ave., Burlington  
(768-4300)

Sells sharps containers and accepts only those containers they sell. (free disposal)

### Heritage Medical Equipment & Supplies

1223 South Gear Ave., Suite 101A  
West Burlington  
(768-4312) GRMC Eastman Plaza

Sells sharps containers and accepts only those containers they sell. (free disposal)

### Heritage Park Pharmacy

1223 S. Gear Ave.  
West Burlington  
(768-3950) GRMC Eastman Plaza

Sells sharps containers and accepts only those containers they sell. (free disposal)

### Heritage Family Pharmacy

1201 W. Agency Road, West Burlington  
(753-3681) Burlington Area Family Practice  
Accepts only those containers sold by Heritage.  
(free disposal)

## *"But I'm Not Infectious"*

Even if you're free of infectious disease, people who happen to get stuck by your needle will not know that. They will worry...maybe even panic. Their lives may be disrupted and they must seek medical care, including immunizations, blood tests, and extended evaluations which may last for years.

You have the power to prevent a situation like this, simply by disposing of your used sharps safely. Do not place others at risk when safe alternatives are currently available.

**It is illegal to place  
needles and sharps  
into the garbage in  
Burlington, Iowa.**

**Please use a safe  
disposal method!**